



PRIDE of the NORTH

NEWSLETTER for 105N District

Issue 6 - June 2024

Great Knaresborough Bed Race



An event which brought our Clubs together...find out more on p.2.

Also, inside:

- A message from outgoing DG Kevin Hunter
- Stories from our Clubs
- Lion Portal Training

And a lot, lot more!

Serving a World in Need

Find out more
inside!

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Outgoing Governor's Message

Hello Fellow Lions, Leos and Partners,

Well here we are -at the end of this Lion's year and my **last article as your District Governor!**

As well as managing to take a week holiday in Norfolk, June continued to be relatively busy for us with **two club visits, one Charter Evening, one Summer Fare** and two very special events.

The first of these, the **Knaresborough Bed Race**, which I attended for the first time was a truly memorable day. I was taken aback by the scale of the whole event and the amount of detailed and professional organisation that **Knaresborough Lions** put in each year to make this famous event happen. Local police estimated that around **30,000 people**



turned out to watch the spectacle of **90 teams** parading their highly decorated beds through the town before taking part in that gruelling race! The weather was fantastic, the crowds were magnificent and a great time was had by all. I highly recommend that you go next year and see the event for yourself or perhaps volunteer to be a marshal on the day as a number of other clubs did this year. **You can read more about this on page 2.**

In the middle of the month, I attended a special day organised by **Durham and Consett Clubs** who entertained approximately **40 youngsters with disabilities** to a golfing experience at a local driving range and afterwards to a lovely lunch. A great day of fun and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone, especially when some Lion golfers who attended were put to shame!

As you know, **Make a Wish** has been the chosen charity for my wife Cynthia's appeal during our term of office. She is absolutely thrilled to be able to report that you have so generously supported this wonderful charity to the tune of **£5,920**. The Charity is so grateful for all this support and you have really made a lot of children's wishes come true. **Thank You!**

Finally, it has been a **privilege and honour to serve you all as your District Governor** for the last two years. You have provided us both with the opportunity to meet hundreds and hundreds of Lions throughout this great District of ours. **We step down with the happiness of being able to create so many memories and feel so proud of what you all do every day as Lions to change for the better everyday lives in our communities.**

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank your **District Cabinet Team** for all the support they have given me over this time and offer my best wishes to your incoming new team - **District Governor Gill Swan, First VDG John Sellers and Second VDG Allan Clark**. **With your support they will do a great job in taking our District even further forward.**

Kevin Hunter

District Governor

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Great Knaresborough Bed Race

As mentioned, Saturday 8th June saw the **57th running of the Great Knaresborough Bed Race**, organised by Knaresborough Lions Club. It is the biggest event in the town's calendar as the centre is closed down for a **fancy dress parade, followed by a 2.3 mile run through the town and finishing up by swimming the bed through the river.**



This year's theme was '**Great Inventions and Technology** through the Ages' and the teams came up trumps with some spectacular designs. The top prize was won by '**The Rocket Men**' for their **Apollo 11 landing craft**. Equally impressive was the running with **GH Brooks** once again taking top spot in a little over **13 minutes**.

Whilst the event is a true community event, it is also a massive charity fundraiser for teams raising money for chosen charities whilst Knaresborough Lions raise money for both the club and making donations to many groups. Likely, **tens of thousands of pounds are raised for good causes.**



Of course, the event couldn't happen without its partners including many Lions clubs who help with marshalling. **The day shows off Lions at its best and illustrates just what a brilliant family of members we have in 105N.**

New Members

Fiona McCusker, Alnwick Lions Club
Megan Walmsley, Boroughbridge Lions Club
Eugene Normanton, Huddersfield Lions Club
Jacqueline Taylor, Maltby Lions Club
Christine Carrack, Ryedale Lions Club

We are delighted that you have joined us - you have our full support on your Lionism journey.

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

In Memoriam

*Those who have moved to Higher Service,
may they live on in our hearts*

Sheila Veer, Durham Lions Club
Leslie (Les) Hobson, Holme Valley Lions Club
Neil Garratt, Morley & District Lions Club
PDG Corrine Ashburner, Prudhoe Mid Tyne Lions Club
Marshall Smith, Dalbeattie Lions Club

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



Incoming Governor's Message

Dear fellow Lions,

I was privileged last month to attend the **Lions International Convention** in a wintery Melbourne while you were enjoying a heatwave. A **116 countries' Lions** were represented in a $\frac{3}{4}$ mile long parade through the parks of Melbourne reminding me that this is the **biggest global service organisation of volunteers** and we need to be proud, celebrate and share news of everything we do so that we no longer get asked 'Who are the Lions?'



More locally, **Huddersfield and Keighley Lions** have been supporting the brass band parade in Brighouse whilst the **Knaresborough Bedrace** was another amazing event supported by **6 Lions clubs**

The next Lions Clubs gathering will be the **Fun and Sports day in Doncaster**. All of these events demonstrate that partnership in community working, whilst hard work and sometimes exasperating, achieves a formidable force for good. It's also great fun! **Better together - we are unstoppable.**

Recruitment to the District Cabinet continues and we are nearly there. We are particularly keen to hear from any Lion interested in taking a role in our service themes of **Speech and Hearing, Refugees, Medic Alert and Hunger.**

We have been saddened by the loss of **PDG Corrinne to Higher Service** after a career working with children both as Headteacher and as our Youth Coordinator. We have a strong Youth team and we still have room for a couple more recruits.

Training dates have been set for Zone Chairs and Officer roles – more details are available from our Leadership lead Lion Michelle Nicholson

Be Bold and Believe in what we do, we are amazing.

Lion Gillian Swan

Diary Dates

17th July - District Foundation Trustee meeting
18th July - Visit to Consett Lions
25th July – Visit to Bridlington Lions
26th – 28th July – Multiple District Council meeting in Redditch
4th August – Cabinet meeting at Scotch Corner
10th August – Doncaster Fun and Sports Day
18th August – Zone Chair training at Scotch Corner

First Vice District Governor and District Governor Elect



Dear fellow Lions, Leo's and partners,

Since the last newsletter, **I have finally completed my allocated Club Visits for the year 2023-24.** These have involved visits to **Southwolds Branch Club and to Haltemprice.** It has been an interesting journey seeing the diversity in fundraising and service throughout our District, and I look forward to my visits in the next Lionistic year when I will be covering **Zones 6, 9 and 12.**

I will also have a lot more insight into the workings of **Multiple District** when, as 1st VDG, I will be required to attend MD council meetings and again, I look forward to that. **If you need any advice or support from the DG's Team please do not hesitate to contact one of us.**



Following on from the successful **Club Officer Training Day at Scotch Corner** this year, attendees were keen to have the opportunity to get together to discuss the topics of member recruitment and member retention throughout the District. Incoming DG Gill and the District Officers are keen to facilitate this, and are organising a group session, where ideally the **Membership Officer and at least one more including President from each club will be able to attend.**

Further details will be forthcoming in July and August but the date for your diaries is **Saturday 28th September, 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, Scotch Corner.** Zone Chairs will definitely need to attend, and will be able to claim travel costs from District. They will be asked to organise car sharing from their zones where possible to cut down on travel costs, which should be funded by Clubs. **District very much need and appreciate your input on this.** The benefits of increased membership are of course increased service, movement towards our target of reaching our district goal of one new member per club, and support of the **Lions International Mission 1.5.**

On a personal note, I also want to celebrate the **60th Anniversary of Filey Lions Club** which will culminate in its Charter Dinner at the **Expanse Hotel, Bridlington on Saturday 19th October 2024.** Please have a look at our wonderful, window displays designed by local, Primary Schools on **page 10.**

Finally, our District seems to be on the up and we should carry forward the **positive vibes and attitude** that DG Lion Kevin Hunter has instilled in us this year.

Keep up the good work everyone, and let's expand our membership and service.

Lion John Sellers

Second Vice District Governor and 1st District Governor Elect



Editor's comments

Dear all,

Thank you once again to all those who have contributed to this month's issue.

I have had a great many stories submitted and want to thank everyone who have **supported my plea** in the last issue for one story (or equivalent) per Club. I am hoping, in the near future, that I can think of new ways to present the stories to ensure that more can be published.

As we enter a **new Lionistic Year**, I will be seeking to **work closely with our District** team to improve this newsletter further and find new ways to integrate other aspects of our work. This will include our **Facebook page, Lions District 105 North** which I would encourage everyone to Follow and Like.

As always, this newsletter is absolutely packed with great stories from our Clubs. There has been some awesome work from across the District which you can read about on pages **7-10**. I also would like to acknowledge the messages from our District Team on pages **1-4**. We have had an extremely hardworking team this year and **Kevin**, in particular, deserves nothing but praise for everything he has done for our District. **On a personal level, I would like to thank him for believing in me and providing me with opportunities to prove my work.**

Going forward, I look forward to working with incoming **District Governor Gillian, 1st Vice District Governor John Sellars and 2nd Vice District Governor Allan Clark** over the next twelve months.

Luke Maunsell

District Newsletter Editor
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@LionsDistrict105North



Club News

Dumfries Lions

The bond between two Lions Clubs was strengthened recently when the **President and Vice President from the Cividale del Friuli Manzano Lions Club** in Italy and their partners met up with **President John MacColl of the Dumfries Club and his wife Sheena** during a visit to Scotland.

Although communication is strong and frequent between the two clubs, this is the **first time since the twinning that a visit to Scotland has taken place**. Hopefully, these exchange visits will continue.



Further to this, the Club has been very generous of late. As pictured, the Club has been distributing **£1800** to five worthy causes including **Stuart Frew (Local Defibrillators)**, **Steven Jewell (Langlands School)**, **Rodger Hill (Cardiac Screening and School Defibrillators Project)**, **Martin Edgar (Inter Galloway AFC)** and the **Robin Hood Veterans Foundation**. They also have dropped over **20,000 spectacles** on behalf of themselves, **Dumbarton, Helensburgh and Ayr and Prestwick Club**.

Denby Dale District Lions



Being in Lions provides its members to make a real difference to people's lives and, in some cases, save them. For example. in **Denby Dales** they have managed to fund five **defibrillators** via their own efforts and **match funding from the NHS/Ambulance Service**.

The defibs are placed in key locations in the areas to be used if needed. We hope they never have to be but it is great that our **Lions are there to help people in the most desperate of situations**.

Charter Dinner Date



Filey Lions Club

Saturday 19th October

Expanse Hotel, Bridlington, YO15 2LS

Timings to be confirmed.



Darlington Lions

Supporting projects which focus on sight is an important mission for our clubs. In Darlington, they have been doing their bit for these causes by backing a local charity.

The **Darlington and District Talking Newspaper** are a leading organisation in their area, operating since 1979, who convert local news and newspapers into audio recordings for over **200 people** who are blind or visually impaired. Aided by **40 volunteers**, they do a great job at preventing isolation for those who struggle with their vision.

Now, thanks to the efforts of our Lion members, the Talking Newspaper has an additional **£500** which they can now use for a new copy machine and **more CDs with memory sticks** to be posted out to those who need it. **Good work Darlington Lions!**



Easingwold District Lions



Lots of our club are enjoying the sunny weather and Easingwold District Lions certainly did so during their **Summer Event**.

Involving a variety of popular activities, **the Lions' Book Stall** was a particular hit whilst their **Water Stocks** provided a refreshing splash of fun. Beyond that, **face paint, glitter and so much more** was on offer and their beloved mascot, **Leo the Lion**, roamed the event, bringing smiles and joy to all with his friendly presence.

Most importantly, all proceeds from the event are going towards their Lions' project for this summer—fundraising to provide **prostate cancer testing**.

Wetherby District Lions

In Wetherby, **local Lions have been working with The Wetherby Riverside Bandstand Trust** on a special, musical extravaganza.

Back in June, 16 brass bands from Derbyshire, Lancashire, Yorkshire and Northumberland performed in the town for the famous **Drovers' Day celebration**.

This marks the tradition, long held for over **200 years where 1000s of cattle** were walked from gathering points in Scotland to markets in the south of England via Wetherby with its bridge and ford over the River Wharfe. Each time this epic journey occurred, music would be played to soothe the animals.

Whilst no cattle are present these days, **large crowds and £1000s worth of prizes** are in abundance. That is **'moosic' to my ears**.



Stonehaven and District Lions



In **Stonehaven**, a special event has been held to bring people, together and our Lions have been front and centre to make it a success. The '**Feein Market**' gives an opportunity for community organisations to raise much needed funds. It is spearheaded by our Lions, who have taken over the running of the market.

Not only did their **Lions Den Bar** keep the punters happy, the diverse entertainment (from dancing to music) even attracted

Scotland's First Minister - John Swinney who turned up to support their work!

Boroughbridge Lions

Often, being told to 'get on your bike' is an unpleasant thing to hear but not for the **record 195 participants** who took part in their **annual Family Cycle Day**.

The event covers 11 miles (there and back) and was facilitated by **Boroughbridge Lions, Great Ouseburn Primary School, Boroughbridge Primary School and fellow Lion Clubs, Wetherby, Elmet, Knaresborough and Harrogate.**



Also helping out was **Charltons of Boroughbridge** who provided a rescue van and provided a cash sponsorship. Local cycle repair firm, **Spokey Dokey** assisted via free cycle repairs and further volunteers provide marshalling, first aid and keep fit warm up sessions at the beginning of the ride. Starting the race was local **World Champion para-athlete Sid Roskilly.**

It is truly great that this special day was a success by **bringing the community together and also by raising a huge £3000.** We wish Boroughbridge Lions all the best for next year as they are **hoping for a new record of 200 riders!**

Filey Lions



Window displays are an immensely useful way of sharing the good work of our clubs and Filey Lions have been using them in their lovely town. **Supported by their local Boots,** they have taken over two windows to display their presentations.

On one, they outline their work over their **60 years** of service. Whereas, their **Youth Liaison Officer, Lion Julie Brown** has used posters from local children.

Thank you to Boots and local members for making this possible. **Let's see if we can get more window displays across our District!**



Sunderland Lions



Sunderland Lions is hoping to hold its first ever Duck Race but needs your help!

The Club is aiming to host the event on the first Bank Holiday in May 2025. Whilst this is still a while away, they do need some support to make sure that it all goes well. If you can **help the club source some ducks**, please get in touch with **Carolyn Ewing** on: **carolyn.ewing800@gmail.com**.

Keighley Lions

Santa has been very busy recently - thanks to the great team at Keighley Lions.

He has been popping around as many community events and galas as possible **supported by mascot Roary and his new, companion Roary Jr as he goes on his Summer Tour.**

This effort has been fully **backed by locals**, especially by children who have enjoyed seeing Santa in his summer get-up. So far, he has appeared at wonderful events such as **Oakworth Gala**. If you want to see more of Santa's work with **Keighley Lions**, please follow them on Facebook and Instagram @KeighleyLionsClub.



Elmet Lions



Elmet Lions have been having a fundraising push very recently thanks to their **Great Selby Bike Race** which saw over 180 cyclists take part.

The yearly event was held as a way to raise money for four charities: **The British Heart Foundation, St Leonard's Hospice, Martin House and the Club's PSA testing.**

The gruelling **45 mile and 25 mile** courses attracts only the hardest of participants such as 8 year old **Ada Jobling**. This young superstar took part in the race in memory of a family friend who was supported by St Leonard's Hospice. Her dad also took part and together they raised an incredible **£4147**.

Following the race, a night of fun, quizzes, supper and laughter was held. Not only that but Ada (*pictured above*) has been awarded a **Young Leaders in Service Award - Bronze Award** for her efforts. Collectively, this year's race is likely to have raised over **£7000** for these great causes and continues to be a huge success for the local area.

