



PRIDE of the NORTH

NEWSLETTER for 105N District



Issue 24 - December 2025

The joy of Christmas!



Photos courtesy of Filey Lions, Wetherby District Lions, Denby Dale District Lions, Keighley Lions and Sunderland Lions

Inside this issue

Editor's Comment	1
District Governor's Message	2
Vice Governor's Message	3
Leadership Matters	4
Calendar Dates	5
Inclusivity in Sight	6
Celebrations and Awards	7
Festive tales	8-9
Tales from our Clubs	10-13

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Connecting members in Yorkshire, the North East and Scotland

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Editor's Comments



Dear all,

Well, here we are - **the best time of year**. As you will see (from page 9), our District has been extraordinarily busy providing the best service it can. From hampers to grottos, **our Clubs have been doing it all** and it has been an utter pleasure putting together these stories for you to enjoy this month.

In this issue, I am proud to announce a new section entitled '**Awards and Celebrations**' (page 8) has been created. This will be used for stories relating to **Charter Dinners and special awards** received by members. This means that a Club can **submit an additional story** and, most importantly, it will provide another platform to cheer on our members and Clubs.

As we now move into the new Year, I want to thank you all for your ongoing support, kind messages and content. I hope **you and your Clubs have a well-deserved rest and take heart from all the brilliant work you have done.**

Luke Maunsell

District Newsletter Editor



media@keighleylions.uk

Competition Corner

Scores on the Door Travelling Lion:

Thorne Rural - 97
Garforth - 14
Keighley - 5



Host Club:

Thorne Rural - 45

Don't forget that our District has some **great, creative competitions** which include: **The Photo Comp, The Peter Shaw Award, Rookie of the Year and the Best Web Page Award**. They are all fun and help build comradeship between us all. If you would like to get involved, in any of them, by the **closing date of 31/12/2025**, please contact **Lion Roy Field** at: rjafield58@gmail.com.



District Governor's Message

Fellow Lions, Leos and Partners,

It is that time of year when we are all **busy bringing joy to many little smiling faces and quite a few big ones too**. It can be a hard slog out in the cold and wet, tramping the streets, but it's all worthwhile when the **feedback comes on your Facebook pages, and your Treasurer tots up your donations**.



With all of this, let's remember how **amazing these acts of service are and how much joy they enable us to provide in this period**. Vitally too, **the more we raise, means that the more we can give away** to good causes and local groups. Over Christmas I have enjoyed taking part myself in a **couple of stints driving and playing Santa for my own Club and at a couple of Primary School parties**. It is indeed a **magical time of year for our little ones**, and don't forget that **it is the local Lions who provide it**.

Convention is fast approaching and if you haven't booked yet, we will soon be at the deadline for preferential rates on the rooms at Scotch Corner. So, if you intend to stay over, please do get your Booking Forms in to the Convention Team as soon as possible. **The Convention Theme is based on service and Lions having fun**. Our International guest will be **Dr. Karl Brewi** from Vienna, Austria, and his wife **Bettina**, both Lions. Karl is a **2nd year International Director** and has been a Lion since 1991. He has held many offices in both District and MD including **Lions Austria Foundation Chairperson, General Secretary and Programme Manager for Lions Europa Forum 2023**. A retired businessman from his own river shipping company on the Danube after 40 years, **he is a progressive Melvin Jones Fellow**. He and Bettina have 4 children and 2 grandchildren. **We look forward to welcoming him to our convention**.

I am very pleased we had a number of entries for the **Peace Poster Competition** this year and our judges were selected from 3 different independent Clubs. **Our District winner was Lucy Weatherell**, sponsored by **Castleford and Pontefract Lions Club**. I was pleased to attend an event at Xscape, Castleford, where Lucy was presented with her prize. The poster was forwarded to MD for national judging but didn't unfortunately come out top this year. Hey Ho, don't suppose we can win every year. We also potentially have a **Young Ambassador Entry** from **Bramley and Wickersley Lions**, who will go to the finals in Dudley in February.

Fellow Lions, it is that time of year when **our numbers often take a tumble**, as member subscriptions/donations become due again in January. **Let's try and keep our numbers up** and if you have anyone within your Clubs who is thinking of dropping out, **remind them of the joy and power of service, and of the friendship and joy of the social side of Lions, a very important aspect**.

Lions, **keep doing what you do, take a well earned rest after Christmas and Kairen and I wish you a peaceful New Year, and look forward to meeting you at Convention**.

Lion John Sellers, MJF

District Governor



sellersatmallard@aol.com



Pride of the North - District 105N Newsletter - Issue 24 - December 2025

2

1st Vice Governor's Message

Dear fellow Lions, Leos and partners,

Wow! What an amazing journey I have been on this year from 2nd VDG to VDG in July, Clubs visited and Charters attended, along with training sessions and ongoing training to **hopefully prepare me for next Lionistic year as your District Governor.**



I won't pretend that it has been or will be easy, trying to fulfil the roll on a pension with no savings, but I am getting there, and **it will not stop me doing the best job I can, for each and every one of you.**

Enough of me now, I have been so proud to troll the Facebook pages and see what a **wonderful job everyone is doing as service** to their communities and further abroad. This year has seen **high demands on funding** with Gaza, Ukraine, Sri Lanka and more, but even closer to home with the floods in Monmouth. **Our support for LCIF grows ever more important.** Not forgetting that your **Club earns points for donating to LCIF, points that allow you to reward your members, Friends of Lions or local people** who have done extraordinary things. The Melvin Jones Fellowship is a lasting tribute to those unsung heroes amongst us.

In early February, we have Convention approaching, and **we need to find a 'willing' Lion to step up for the role of Second VDG** and there are also **other vacancies for Zone Chairpersons and District officers** going forward. If you know someone who you think would make a good officer - **speak to them, encourage them, nurture them.**

By the time you read this newsletter, all the Christmas Campaigns will be over for another year. I sincerely hope they were all you wanted them to be and you can now **'Kick Back, Feet Up' and have a well-earned rest.** After this, I am looking forward to a **busy 6 months of visiting Clubs, learning as I go, and then, in June, jetting off to Hong Kong for the International Convention.**

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and here's to a fabulous New Year in 2026.

Lion Allan Clark, MJF

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



nalla105c@yahoo.co.uk



Leadership Matters

Are you ready to make a lasting impact in your club and community? Don't miss two essential events this January designed to empower every Lion—whether you're a seasoned Lion or just starting your journey!

Sponsor Success – Nurturing a Lion for Life

Thursday, 29th January 2026, 7:30 PM (Online)

Your role as a sponsor is the single biggest factor in new member retention and engagement. Join our interactive webinar, “Sponsor Success: Nurturing a Lion for Life,” and discover how to move beyond paperwork to master the art of mentorship that lasts.

We'll dive into the three critical phases of sponsorship:

- Setting clear expectations before membership
- Navigating the first 30 days of Club integration
- Ensuring long-term belonging through the first 12 months

Learn practical strategies—like intentional introductions and effective “5-Minute Check-ins”—to build rapport, guarantee every new Lion feels welcome, and ensure every voice is valued. **Let's work together to boost retention and help every new member become an engaged Lion for life!**

Register here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/8scK9xC5RLmGQuZc5poP9Q>

Lions Orientation Webinar

Wednesday, 21st January 2026, 7:30 PM (Online)

New to Lions or want a refresher on what it means to be part of the world's largest service organization? Our Orientation Evening is the perfect place to connect, learn, and be inspired. Discover the values, vision, and opportunities that make Lions Clubs International unique. Meet fellow members, ask questions, and find out how you can make the most of your Lion experience.

Register here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/Bbf7zbjLR3GQ63PNzIxH1Q>

Mark your calendars and join us for both events—let's nurture a Lion for life and welcome every new member with open arms!

Please email Lion Michelle on: Michelle.McArthur@jigsawatwork.com to request your application and/or if you would like a copy of the full list of development opportunities for 2025/2026.



Calendar Dates

Rothwell District Lions

Cinderella Panto for children

4th January 2026, 1pm and 3pm
Blackburn Hall, Commercial St,
Rothwell, LS26 0AW

Zone N12

Annual Burns Night

17th January 2026
Wheatley Golf Club, Armthorpe
Road, Doncaster, DN2 5QB
Email Lion Mike Byrne:
thebyrnes2003@yahoo.co.uk

Teesdale and District Lions

Burns Supper and Ceilidh

Friday 23rd January 2026, 8pm start
GSK Club, Barnard Castle, DL12 8DT
Email Lion President Bob Garton:
fbgassociates1@hotmail.co.uk

Filey Lions

Free PSA testing

30th January 2026, from 10am
Filey Evron Centre, 1a John Street,
YO14 9DW

Find out more:

www.fileylionsclub.org

District Convention

6th to 8th February 2026

Scotch Corner, Darlington, DL10 6NR
Hosted by Thirsk and Northallerton
and Easingwold District Lions Club

Knaresborough Lions

39th Annual Charter Dinner

Hold the Date - 7th March 2026

Easingwold District Lions

47th Anniversary Charter Dinner

Saturday 21st March 2026, 7.00pm
for 7.30pm
Burn Hall Hotel, Tollerton Road,
YO61 1JB
Email Lion Kate:
Katewebster178@btinternet.com

Thorne Rural Lions

45th Charter Dinner

Saturday 14th March 2026
Wheatley Golf Club, Doncaster,
DN2 5QB

Have an upcoming event or Charter Dinner?

If you have a date for the next issue,
please email me on:
media@keighleylions.uk





Inclusivity in Sight



Dear all,

As we draw to the end of 2025, I would first like to **thank absolutely everyone** who has, in so many ways, supported our global cause VISION.

Whether you've been **recycling spectacles, supporting Talking Newspaper, Guide Dogs, your local society for the blind, or our new Child Sight UK** (vision screening programme) – you have been helping us **improve the lives of visually impaired people and tackle avoidable blindness.**

Furthermore, as a part of a new **MD105 wide Vision project** we are now wanting to **ensure that Lions Clubs across the UK are welcoming and inclusive** to the very many visually impaired people out there. To do so, we are working together with **RNIB to design a Lions/RNIB Inclusivity Programme.**

As a part of that, we want to **reach out through to all the Lions in our Clubs and District** who self identify as having significant sight problems, so we can **canvas their experiences and opinions** ahead of creating a **bespoke Powerpoint presentation focusing on Inclusivity.**

If you would **like to help with this**, please don't hesitate to get in touch via the email provided below.

Lion Sue Taylor

MD105N District Vision Officer  tynedalelionsclub@gmail.com



Celebrations and Awards



Consett Lions have recently celebrated their **63rd anniversary** at their Charter event at **Consett & District Golf Club**.

The **28 attendees** included **Vice District Governor Allan Clark**, members of the **Consett, Durham, Sunderland and Huddersfield Lions Clubs** in addition to non-Lion guests from Consett and further afield.

In Dumfries, Lion Wendy Tremble received a **Certificate of Appreciation** from the Club for her **outstanding work with the Lions spectacles project** which has provided thousands of pairs of spectacles for distribution by the Lions International organisation and other charities all over the world.

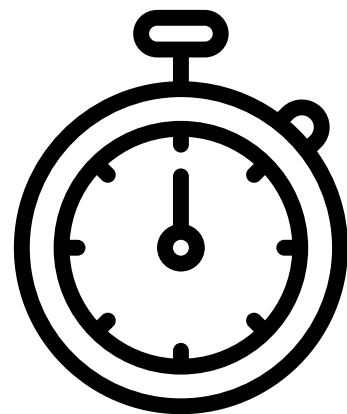


The Club is also delighted to hear that one of its members **Lion Heather Hall** a member for **16 years**, has been honoured with the **British Empire Medal** for her **humanitarian service** in founding **The Usual Place** community café.

Countdown to Convention

With Convention getting ever closer, the Committee wishes to bring the below dates to your attention:

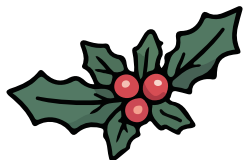
- **5th January 2026** - Hotel bookings close, please book before then to secure the reduced rate for bed and breakfast.
- **11th January 2026** - Celebration dinner bookings close.



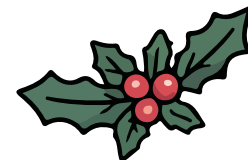
Reminder - please complete a booking form for all attendance options. We do need numbers for day attendance as well as weekend attendance. A warm welcome awaits you and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

Want more information and/or the booking form?
Please email - districtntreasurer@btinternet.com





Festive Tales



In true festive style, the **Knaresborough's Lions** took part in the **town's annual Christmas Tree Festival**. At this 'tree-mendous' event, the Lions decorated their own tree with items dedicated to the Club's activity in the town. They were **one of 100 community groups, businesses and schools** to contribute decorated trees, which were displayed in St John's Church during December.

After last year's debut featuring pom-pom lions, Santa and a Message in a Bottle theme, Knaresborough returned for 2025 with a display inspired by the Town's most iconic event: **the Bed Race**. **Lion Lynn Nudd** (seen here with her David) provided the design, imagination and hard work that created the 2025 contribution. All this work did prove to be worthwhile as approximately, **1000 people visited the display** on the first weekend. Not only that but the Club (who also provided Lionistic material) were able to handout **28 MIABs** as well.

Pocklington & District Lions have been decorating their own Christmas Tree and did so in order to help promote the LCI in the Hull area. **Beverley Minster's annual Christmas Tree Festival** sees 150+ beautifully decorated trees placed into its stunning medieval building for 10 days this December.



This year, the tree was adorned with **Lions emblems including Message in a bottle, lots of Lions and covered the tree in Blue and Gold Baubles**. All of these were guided by a **Lions' star**. They extend their grateful thanks to **Western Wolds Men in Sheds CIO** who helped them by cutting wooden stars and Christmas tree emblems.

During the weeks before Christmas, the Lions were very busy too as they took **Rudolf, Santa and his sleigh around the Pocklington & Market Weighton area**. With the help of **Pocko (their Mascot), Santa and his Elves** - the Club held numerous **street runs, been to High Street Festivals, held supermarket collections, Santa Grottos, teatime and a story with Santa, and Santa's Special Needs Grotto**.





Adding to the festive atmosphere, Wetherby and District Lions have given their **sleigh a new sound system and new lights**. With this new technical boost, the sleigh has been on many journeys this festive period around **Wetherby and Kirk Deighton**. Santa has also **visited Morrisons, Primrose Lane Primary School in Boston Spa and the Engine Shed in Wetherby** where Lindisfarne were performing.

Working with other businesses, the Lions were able to support **Christmas boxes for over 60 deserving families in Wetherby** and help with **Christmas lunches for senior citizens** in the local villages

of Bramham and Boston Spa. Their famous **Dickensian Market** was on the 14th December too with indoor and outdoor artisan stalls; choirs; music; the sleigh and of course Santa! All monies raised from the Market and sleigh rides will be going towards their **Midwinter lunch and party in January**.

In Keighley, the Lions have also been very busy this Christmas period. Working closely with **Bradford Lions and Bradford Museums and Galleries**, the Club held **6 extremely successful grottos** over 3 glorious weekends. The first weekend had the special grotto held at the **Bradford Industrial Museum** whilst the remaining sessions were at **Cliffe Castle**.



During this period, the Club held **14 Santa sleighs** throughout the town and surrounding areas which were backed by members, volunteers and local Scouting groups.

Overall, the Club has done all it can to reach out to as many people as possible. It has ensured that Santa has travelled far and wide locally including to local dinners, supermarkets and schools. **Collectively, around 2000 children will have seen or visited Santa over Christmas - not bad at all!**



Teesdale and District Lions have been full steam ahead with their grottos too this year as they held theirs at The Station in Richmond.

Rather surprisingly, Santa wasn't the only famous person there as the Lions (and the big man himself) were joined by former **Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and his wife Akshata** alongside the daughter of the Station's CEO.

Rishi chatted to the team about the local Lions Clubs and remembered attending a **PSA Screening being held by Darlington Lions earlier this year**. He knew a lot about the work of Lions throughout the UK which is really great to hear!

After he left (*and I am sure gave Santa his own handwritten Christmas list*), Santa got back to meeting and chatting to the local children and receiving their wish lists. **A memorable visit for all involved!**

Tales from our Clubs

Boroughbridge Lions



Quiz nights are fantastic fun and can prove to be lucrative for our charitable purposes.

Recently, for example, the Lions in Boroughbridge organised such an evening for Club members and friends to raise funds for the Club. The event was held at the local Sports Association pavilion where a bar was set up and food supplied by a local Hotel. A raffle was also held and over **seventy people** attended. **The event was a great success and over £600 was raised.**

Following this, the Club put some of their funds to really good use by **supporting their local Primary School**. They were very happy to chip-in to help the school purchase an **outdoor bench for the Key Stage One playground**. This has been very well received by students and teachers alike - **great work Lions!**

Another Club which has been using its money to support good causes is Dumfries. For example, in one go, they **donated £700 to four local organisations** which included the **Summerhill Community Centre, The Food Train, First Base and the The Queen of the South Community Trust**.

Further to this, the Lions have given **£500 to The Airts Community Centre** to help them continue their good work in Sanquhar especially at Christmas time. Additionally, **£500 was given to the local Chest, Stroke and Heart Support Group** and the **Fire and Rescue Service** to support their

Drive Through Santa's Grotto. Similarly, **Cash for Kids has been given a boost of £500** which will be spent providing gifts and other items for local children. Finally, **£250 has gone to Solway Disability Support** in recognition of the excellent work they do and a **new sewing machine** has been provided to the sewing group known as the 'Sewcial Stitchers', who meet at Locharbriggs Social Club

Dumfries Lions



Yarm District Lions



In a similarly generous mood is Yarm District Lions Club who have donated **£6,000 to local charities and families in need**.

The Club distributed **£20 food vouchers**, via its members and Stockton and Billingham Social Services, to more than **125 families and individuals** to help them buy food over the festive period. It also donated money to **2 food banks and to the Salvation Project** which helps families in the Thornaby area. **6 local charities** also received donations to help them over Christmas.

Funding for the donations have come from the **Club's Christmas fundraising Appeal** as well as events such as the **Yarm Fun Run and Ingleby Barwick Fun Run** earlier this year. **As Club President Ron Hall** states, "We have to **work all year** to achieve these donations but **it's been a good year's work** and we are **pleased to be able to help people in need this Christmas**."



Backing the community via much needed donations is also something which Tickhill and District Lions were proud to continue to do this year. This was achieved via the distribution of a **record number of hampers - 100** - which went to families and individuals across their community.

Within these hampers were **2,000 individual items** (enough to fill six cars to the rafters!) which were collated by a number of volunteers including several non-members. Once compiled, they were distributed to those in need who had been highlighted by the Club's Welfare Committee and other local leaders.



The Club has found this project was both **deeply rewarding** and **were delighted to continue their tradition** of spreading festive cheer and practical assistance. **They thank everyone who contributed, volunteered, or supported the effort.** Together, they have **certainly made a meaningful difference to our neighbours this Christmas.**

Consett Lions



Hamper donations are a good way to make a positive difference to those we serve. In Consett, they have been donating their own special ones to locals. Containing tea, coffee and sweet treats - their '**Refreshment hampers**' have gone down a storm with the residents of **Glenroyd and Victoria House.**

Additionally, the **Club's Town Raffle 2025 Draw** was made with 50 prizes ranging from a tub of sweets to a £200 cash prize all of which had been donated by individuals, groups and organisations. Musical entertainment was provided by special guests, **the Biking Vikings**, who raise money for **Brain Tumor Research.**

Ryedale Lions and Darlington Lions

In both Ryedale and Darlington, the Lions have also been handing out hampers and food parcels to local people.

Ryedale Lions (*left*) have worked in conjunction with a local trader in Pickering, The Old Weigh, to provide **25 Christmas hampers** for local vulnerable residents. The proprietor **Toni Pape-Hodgson** has put together these hampers for the last 3 years, **working together with Lion Frank Hayward**, to ensure that the hampers are filled with items that will be enjoyed over the festival period.



Meanwhile, Darlington Lions packed and donated **100 Christmas food parcels** to older and vulnerable people in need. The parcels, which contain a host of staple items, **were assembled and delivered to charities, community centres, schools and churches for distribution.**

Huddersfield Lions



Huddersfield Lions have also been very generous with **hampers** as they have handed them out to **8 different schools**. These are to be used to help them to raise their own funds and have been warmly received. The Club has also organised a **special visit for Santa** to a local care home to **deliver some personalised gifts** to the residents.

A new monthly milestone has also been raised for the **Club's spectacle collection** which saw **5000 collated in November and 6000 in December**. The Club is hoping that this trend continues as, if it does, it could lead to a **grand total of 72,000 a year**.

Keighley Lions

Hospitals and their staff are so important for our communities. All of us, at some point, will need to use them and we should always be grateful for the role they play. In Keighley, the Club has decided to acknowledge and reward those who work at their **local hospital through a big, biscuit donation**.

Joined by myself, Club Vice President Robert Payne gave out around **40 boxes of sweet treats to the staff** who form the backbone of Airedale Hospital. From the porters to the security team to the communication experts and caterers, all the background team (who are often overlooked) were treated.



Additionally, the Club has made sure that **Santa has made a visit too**. Over two sessions, the jolly, red man loved popping by to the hospital which included the **hospital's nursery and Children's ward**. During these sessions, he proudly handed out **presents and selection boxes** to the ill children and (of course) the staff too. **Keighley Lions Club is delighted and proud to back their local hospital and thank the staff for everything they do**.

Derwent Lions



Every Christmas, our friends at Derwent Lions do an **incredible job at reaching out to senior citizens**. They do this by holding their **annual Afternoon Tea events** which brings so many people together.

This year, around **150 guests** attended two separate events. **97** of these were brought together at **Stamford Bridge Village Hall** whilst a further **50** went to the **second event in Wheldrake**. Attendees, including those from local care homes, enjoyed **turkey butties** complete with Stuffing and Cranbury sauce, **followed by trifle together with tea or coffee**. A popular addition for many being a drink from the bar.

Guests were then entertained with a **free raffle** with many guests donating raffle prizes and **Christmas songs from a Ukulele Band and a local ladies choir**. All this could not have been achieved without **food provided by a local Restaurateur and many volunteers whom the Club thanks profusely**.



Filey Lions

Filey Lions have also been hosting a massive get-together for their elderly residents with their well received, **Over 85's Christmas lunch at Cayton Bay Holiday Park**. During the day, **74 guests** joined them for a **lip smacking 3-course lunch**, live entertainment and, of course, a **visit and gift from the man in red himself**, who had **brought his wife and his elves** along to give him a hand. The guests had a truly fantastic day including (as pictured) **Clauses who was their oldest guest at 102**. A further, festive treat saw the Lions take a **coach trip (of 50 guests and volunteers)** to a **carol concert held by Bridlington Lions** on top of a number of supermarket collections and other projects by the Lions.



Doncaster Lions



Doncaster Lions have been helping vulnerable people as well this festive period.

Working in close partnership with **Well Doncaster, Fish Bits and Action for the Needy and Homeless**, they were able to provide food to some of the neediest people in their town. All together, the Club gave out **60 portions of fish chips, a sausage and a soft drink** in a big joint project. **A tasty and satisfying way to make a positive difference.**

Wetherby District Lions

In Wetherby, the Lions have announced their '**Townsperson of the year**' who, for 2026 will be **Louise (Loo) Pedley** who has been celebrated for her voluntary work in the town. The Lions, who host the award, were delighted to present her with a **trophy and have her name engraved on the roll in the Town Hall**. Another local hero celebrated by the Club is **Adele Fairburn from the Bee-Crafty Markets** who was given a **Certificate of Appreciation** for her continued help in organising the indoor markets at the **Club's Dickensian Market**.



The Club wishes to praise all their supporters who enabled their **Big Biz Quiz** to go ahead. Wetherby Lions enjoy tremendous support from Wetherby's business community and each year they are brought together by the quiz. Fantastic raffle prizes and great pizzas added to the evening with a very tight finish to the **quiz won by the team from Kemps bookshop**. On the evening, they enjoyed particular support from **Manning Stainton (Estate Agents), Hunters (Estate Agents) and Morrisons Supermarkets** who provided a superb raffle prize. **A very popular event!**

Upcoming POTN Deadline

Thank you all for your contributions this month. The next deadline is the **18th January 2026**. I look forward to seeing what your Clubs have been doing so email me on: media@keighleylions.uk

