



# Spotlight on 105NE

District Governor 105NE newsletter



February 2012 Issue 8

## Forward thinking is the key



The dippers have dipped, the sleigh is in moth balls, and for some, the waistline has somehow expanded, so all Lions can hibernate until Spring time, as February and March can be, for a lot of club activity, very quiet.

If I may, I would like to make a suggestion. What about using this time to do a bit of forward thinking!

Membership is in decline, we are all getting older, and sometimes it can be a wrench to pull yourself away from that warm fire to attend a meeting.

What if we approach the oncoming months by putting to one side the attitude of 'if it ain't broken, why fix it' and 'that will never work in this District'.

I would ask all Lions to look and listen, with an open mind, to the new incentives, membership tools and the two Signature projects adopted by the whole MD, because they will not work if we are not prepared to work with them. So, when the invitations and details come out to your respective clubs, do not just 'pass them around' at the next Club meeting, Club President! Take hold of them, discuss them, and give them a fair hearing please!

There is an area for potential new members, the District PR Officer, Lion Lachlan made me aware of it when emailing about a possible 'show stand' in Glasgow at an event for the soon to be, or already retired.

The question of 'what can I do with my time now I'm retired?' shouts Join your local Lions Club. This got me thinking, that this can be a localised event, so have a look at your own area, through local authorities or social services, and see if there is a similar thing held.

Further to my request to Club Presidents concerning the United Bank of Carbon and our joint effort to raise the second £1,000 match funded x4 by them. If you are still unsure as to what it is all about, google them, to realise that this is a dedicated organisation working with commerce, industry and non government organisations (NGOs) to help make this a more healthy planet.

By the time this Spotlight is circulated, I will have attended the January Council of Governors' Meeting, so I will update everyone on any issues that affect us in the March edition.

**Lion Alan Deacon DG 105NE**

## Starting young



5 week old Morgan Richardson had her first visit from Santa Claus when he was accompanied on his rounds by Dalbeattie and District Lions Club on Tuesday 20 December. She is shown with her mum Danni and dad Chris with Santa on his sleigh.



The procession left the Seaburn Centre prompt 11am. and was led by the Mayor and Mayoress of Sunderland followed by the Lion President. This year Lion President Pam took to the water and dressed as a sexy lion!

The estimated amount raised by the dippers is £78,440 which is an amazing record. So many charities will benefit from this wonderful occasion which has now become very firmly established on the calendar for Sunderland city.

For some it is an annual event to take part in and we look forward to seeing our "regulars" each year.

We receive good press coverage on a local level, both in the newspapers and on Look North BBC TV!

We believe that Sunderland hosts the largest Boxing Day Dip in Britain and we hope it continues for many years to come.

**Lion Anne Fielding, Sunderland Lions PR**

## Tidings of comfort and joy

Peterlee and District Lions Club did something different this year at Christmas.

Rather than heave a sleigh through the town the members concentrated on the less fortunate and on the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evening of the pre Christmas week, accompanied by Santa Claus, giving out chocolates (soft centres) visited 14 care and residential homes in the locality and entertained the residents (and staff) by singing a selection of Christmas carols and seasonal songs.

It seems to have been a success as the bookings are rolling in for this year but whether they will be able to go further afield, as requested, has yet to be resolved.

## Britain's largest Nippy Dip

Having told you something about the most northerly Boxing Day Dip recorded in Britain, in 105NE, we now turn your attention to the largest Boxing Day Dip, staged in the more southern corner of 105NE.

The Boxing Day Dip 2011, organised by Sunderland Lions, was their 37th Dip. It is now so large that planning begins in August.

Boxing Day 2011 saw some 1,000 dippers take to the water at Seaburn in relatively mild conditions compared to some years.



The tide was a long way out so they had to cover a large stretch of beach before reaching the sea.

Once again the costumes were truly amazing and judging was rather difficult!



## Welcome

Since last month's membership update we are happy to welcome the following Lions with pride

### Aberdeen

Christopher Carson sponsored by Chris Southworth  
 Elizabeth Carson sponsored by Irene Stewart  
 Kathleen Crusoe sponsored by Dorothy Edward  
 Jacqueline Dean sponsored by Carole Bilsdon

### City of Edinburgh

Norma Campbell sponsored by Andrew Sutherland  
 and Ian Whiteford

### Morpeth

Ken Brown sponsored by Simon Pringle

### Sunderland

John Roberts sponsored by Mike Evans

### Tynedale

Steve Forster sponsored by Russel Ainsley



A truly international welcome at Morpeth: New Lion Ken Brown, former Mayor of Morpeth, visiting Canadian Lion Maureen Pockett, Lion President

Dave Wheeler, new Lion David Armstrong, welcomed in January Spotlight and visiting Canadian Lion Rick Pockett.



## Lioness Charter invitation

**Northallerton & District Lioness Club** is holding its 23rd Charter Dinner on Saturday 21 April 2012 at Allerton Court, Northallerton. Tickets: £19.95 Assemble 7.00pm for 7.30pm. Guest speaker and Disco (Our Style).

For menu choice and more information please contact Secretary Jenny Bell [jayanbee@aol.com](mailto:jayanbee@aol.com)

## Extension for fish and chip deliveries

For most of its 48 years the Lions Club of Malton, Norton and District has delivered subsidised fish and chips to the housebound of the two towns every Saturday from October to April. But now the project is being extended through Lion Philip Richardson, working with the Benefice of Buckrose Carrs which contains nine churches in villages along the A64 in North Yorkshire between Malton and Scarborough.



Les Johnson, Church Warden of St Andrews Church in Rillington, one of the nine churches in the Benefice was on hand to receive the first Friday lunchtime delivery at the Woodlands Road Community Centre in the village from Lion Bill Thompson. Les thanked the Lions and their wives who prepared the room, served the food and cleared up afterwards.

Lion Philip said 'Fish and Chip deliveries to the villages have always been difficult because of their wide geographic spread which meant that even with insulated containers, door to door deliveries were not practical as the last few portions would be delivered almost cold. By working with the Benefice we are able to deliver piping hot fish and chips to village halls and community centres at lunchtime for our senior citizens to eat together – and the Benefice usually provides a film show to follow, "Calamity Jane" being next on the programme.'

### Allendale Lions meet BBC's Matt Baker

Last November, One Show host Matt Baker raised an incredible £1.26million for BBC Children in Need during his epic eight day, 484 mile rickshaw ride from Edinburgh to London. On the third day of his Rickshaw Challenge – he pedalled into Allendale, Northumberland, at 8.30am to be welcomed by a pride of Lions! Allendale Lions Club had held a book sale the previous day and decided to donate the £100 raised to Matt's charity appeal. The occasion was marked by coverage on the BBC One Show, captured in film updates of Matt's progress. Allendale Lions' Fund Raising Officer Prue Newman commented 'It was a privilege to meet Matt – he really appreciated our efforts and was very generous with his time on that cold November morning. He's since kindly donated a signed t-shirt for our annual charity auction'.



The Lions' welcome party that morning included Richard Snowdon (President), Prue Newman (Fund Raising Officer), Peter Aldcroft (Publicity Officer), Stephanie Atkinson and Wendy McEvoy, ably supported by Pudsey Bear.

### International projects recognised in Darlington

Darlington Lions Club recently welcomed two speakers. Lion President Richard Western, welcomed Elspeth Robinson to talk about her ongoing work in Kumi village, Uganda, and Chris Robinson on a locally based charity, 'PhysioNet'



Elspeth is a retired physiotherapist who has been helping raise money for, and working alongside, Kumi Hospital since 2005. She has started a Kumi community based fund programme for children and adults with disabilities, specialising in education, health and employment. She runs numerous projects such as fuel saving stoves running off termite mud rather than wood. The formation of groups of men, women and children with disabilities are formed to try to lift them out of poverty. Cows, chickens, and goats are donated to the groups to encourage income generating projects. Darlington Lions Club were the first to buy a cow in Kumi in 2006 for the children to drink their first glass of milk. Tricycles donated transform the life of paraplegics and a number of bicycles have recently been purchased. Elspeth has a physiotherapist, social worker, community based rehabilitation worker, and a couple of drivers who all assist her with this valuable work and these are all funded by donations.

Chris Robinson talked about 'PhysioNet' a North Yorkshire based charity set up to provide physiotherapy equipment for disabled children in Eastern and Central Europe and developing countries. Hundreds of wheelchairs, crutches, other seating and mobility items that are found as surplus to requirements or discarded are collected by teams of volunteers and sent overseas to meet an almost insatiable need.

Denis Pinnegar, Darlington Lions Fellowship Chairman thanked Elspeth and Chris for making members appreciate these basic needs that most of us take for granted.

## Growing our membership



Selling is a dirty word - so how can we persuade people to listen and understand the Lions message?

What makes people listen?

**Aim:** To enable Lions to improve face-to-face communications and engage members and the public in their activities

**Outcome:** You will learn how to interest people in the Lions story by using powerful interpersonal communications techniques

**Format:** Interactive sessions involving practical exercises and 'how to' tips and techniques

The District has been successful in obtaining a grant from Multiple District to run two workshops in March 2012.

One will be held on Sunday 11 March at Glasgow University campus and the other on Sunday 25 March at the Windmill Hotel near Hartlepool.

We'll start at 10am and finish at 4pm, with a free lunch and a bit of fun we'll get the serious business done!

The focus is twofold, to launch the Signature Projects and to look at membership and leadership issues. They are intended to give us an opportunity to develop and share ways of strengthening our clubs' membership.

These promise to be great events, but they will depend on the enthusiasm and involvement of the participants. The workshops will be targeted at current or incoming Presidents, Zone and Region Chairmen as well as other Lions representing their clubs. It will be crucial to have input from clubs who are managing to build their membership as well as those where there are difficulties in getting, or keeping, members.

I will shortly be writing to all club Presidents to seek nominations. Unfortunately, numbers will not be unlimited but I hope we will be able to

accommodate all who express an interest. I would be quite happy to answer any queries or receive any comments.

**PDG Lion Tony Campbell** Tel: 01723 376458  
Email [ajcampbe@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:ajcampbe@tiscali.co.uk)

## Lions save the rainforest

Jonathan Wild, Deputy Lieutenant of North Yorkshire, former Chairman of Bettys and Taylors of Harrogate, and a champion tree planter, tells of his first experience in the "Lions' Den".

I just couldn't believe the speed of action and generosity of spirit of the Lions.



I was still enjoying the warm applause after opening the District 105NE Convention last November, when a young man came to the stage and asked District Governor Lion Alan Deacon if he could make a presentation.

Whilst I had been speaking, this young man, a Young Ambassador, had reached an agreement with the Youth Chairman and the Treasurer to write a cheque then and there! The proposition was to fund the planting of the first 15,000 tree seedlings to kick-start a project to protect a watershed vital to 26 villages in Tamil Nadu, Southern India.

By the beginning of December, the Indian community had submitted its seedling planting schedule, variety by variety, and the Lions had approved it. Work began in January for completion by June, ready for the next phase, provided they can find the funding for the remainder of the 800,000 tree project.

In all my 25 years of tree planting by the million all around the world, no-one has ever moved as fast as the Lions!

I had only been invited to talk to the Convention about how they could work together to do something internationally in support of International President Tam's bold call to the Lions to plant trees during his year of office. I gave just two examples of projects from my rainforest

research charity's bank of some 70 community-based conservation projects in parts of the world where trees are not just a nice-to-have amenity, but a matter of life and death.

By the Convention coffee break, lured by my offer of matched-funding, I had the promise of a cheque to start a second project in Tanzania, and an offer to introduce our rainforest project bank to the other Governors in MD105.

What a privilege to be welcomed into the "Lions Den" in this exhilarating way. Thank you, Lions!

**Jonathan Wild LL.D DL**  
**Chair of the Trustees**  
**The United Bank of Carbon**  
**Registered charity No.1133285**

### Lions UN Day at Holyrood 2012



Tuesday 20 March 2012 is the 105NE Lions UN Day at Holyrood. Sponsored by Colin Keir MSP, Edinburgh West, the early evening event will take place in the Garden Lobby. Lions wishing to attend should contact [lionlachlan@btinternet.com](mailto:lionlachlan@btinternet.com) or [andrew.tilton@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:andrew.tilton@tiscali.co.uk) by **Friday 17 February**.

Also, requests for information display space at the event should also be sent as arrangements have to be confirmed in advance. We look forward to a good attendance, given the importance of getting our name across more widely in the community we serve.



LCIF, supporting Lions Clubs around the world in serving their local communities and the world community as they carry out important humanitarian service projects.

We are now half way through this Lions year, it is an ideal time for Clubs to look towards making donations to LCIF, as they are always in need of

funds to support the many life changing projects around the world.

There are several ways contributions can be made to LCIF to ensure this life changing work continues. Firstly, through the donations made from Lions Clubs Charity accounts, clubs can identify which area the donation is to be used. Be it for the General Fund, Disaster Fund, Youth projects, Humanitarian projects, Sight or Health, including the new Measles Project.

One easy way to make a smaller donation to LCIF which proved successful in the last Lionistic year was the Personal Contributing Member Pins. These are produced annually and dated, The Gold at £70, Silver £35 and Bronze £15. They can be obtained by individuals or by clubs for individual members.

In our District last year we had two 100% Contributing Clubs and two clubs who made a simple donation for a Gold Pin from a Club to their President to mark the year in office.

To obtain your Personal Contributing Pin, contact myself, [roychambers259@talktalk.net](mailto:roychambers259@talktalk.net) or call me on 01723 864121

To find out where Lions are changing lives through LCIF, visit the LCIF website [www.LCIF.org](http://www.LCIF.org)

Please continue to support LCIF

**Roy Chambers**  
**LCIF District Coordinator**

### Young and old with the Lions of Filey

On Saturday 10 December Filey School provided the venue for Filey Lions over-85s Christmas lunch. Lions provided the food and Filey School student leaders gave their time to serve and provide assistance and conversation. Ten members of the Chamber Choir also delighted guests with a 30 minute performance of festive favourites.

The school was delighted that it could be involved in such a successful community event. The students conducted themselves in a wonderful manner and helped to make the event such a fantastic opportunity to embrace and share true Christmas spirit. The contribution of the students was clearly appreciated by guests, as indicated in the cards, letters and messages received since the event.

Harry Clark, Head Boy, was one of the senior students who attended the over-85s Christmas lunch. Harry writes:

Christmas came early at Filey School this year as a large amount of over 85 men and women from around the Filey area, came to the school for an early, yet very festive Christmas lunch. From the moment you entered the car park the festive spirit was acknowledged by the large Santa's sleigh playing music, Christmas music, of course.

Filey Lions were the people to thank for creating a wonderful day out for the men and women of Filey, but our very own Filey School played their part also. Various members of staff and 16 student leaders came to lend a helping hand. The atmosphere was jolly if I do say so myself. Seeing all those smiles on faces made us realise how such a small thing can truly mean a lot to many people. There wasn't a seat to spare! I would know, as I had to stand up for most of the duration.



Whilst all this was happening the staff were fed and they finally had full stomachs themselves. All the people there got a gift from Santa, consisting of various chocolates - they did look nice.

Finally, half past 2 struck the clock and all the men and women went home with a smile on their faces and the joy of Christmas in their hearts.

Thanks to all the staff, students and chefs who made this meal a success!

Lion Tony Nixon, Chairman of Filey Lions Welfare Committee, wrote to express the Lions thoughts on the over-85s Christmas lunch:

To say it was successful is an understatement. The choir was outstanding and fully deserved the applause given. The students assisting throughout the event were kind, considerate and very courteous at all times and a real credit to the school.

Working with the students gave us a chance to appreciate the social skills they develop. It was a pleasure.

It was obvious our guests thoroughly enjoyed meeting with the students.

The Head Teacher was lost for words when, a week later, Filey Lions presented a cheque for £500 as a donation to school. He said that this hugely generous donation will go towards planned on-going refurbishment of the school hall and will be used to help purchase new curtains and stage curtains so that a fitting venue can be provided for school events and, hopefully, many more such community events at the school in the future.



The guests began their afternoon with an array of songs by the Filey School choir. They enjoyed that thoroughly as they joined in themselves.

Afterwards, dinner was served and the amount of wonderful compliments for the food and the kitchen staff was truly amazing.

Once the dinner had gone the empty plates were cleaned up and the puddings were served; either a traditional Christmas pud or a lovely homemade fruit salad. I tell you what, never and I mean never, serve food with an empty stomach, it's true madness! In a matter of minutes the puds and salad had gone, as fast as the dinner went down! The guests then enjoyed 20 minutes of beautiful singing, and were then joined by the man himself, Santa Claus!

## A Sunderland Leo enjoys the Youth Exchange programme as a participant

During this summer I was sent by the Lions Club in Sunderland, to spend three weeks in Germany at a Youth Exchange Camp. The trip was divided into two sections: ten days with a German host family, and then ten days in the camp with 24 other people.

The first ten days, at the host family, was a period of settling in to the change of culture. I was in a family where the father, Patrick, was French, and the mother, Bettina, was German, so I was able to test out my foreign language skills. Both Patrick and Bettina are Lions. For me, one of the most interesting experiences of the trip was when I went to school with my "Host brother". Everything was in German of course and I was able to see the differences to school in the UK and compare

So after saying goodbye to my host family I was taken to the Emile-Frick Haus. Including myself there were 25 people from 18 different countries such as Mexico, Denmark, China and Lithuania at the Camp. This made it a multicultural experience with everyone sharing traditions and foods from their own countries.

Despite the internationality of the Camp nearly everyone spoke English (although I took the opportunity to practise speaking French and German, and I even learned a little Spanish).

We took part in a number of different activities over the ten days. Activities included a visit to the Schokoladenmuseum in Cologne, and a "Crossboccia" (soft bowls) competition, amongst others. On the last night each Camp member's host family came and joined us in farewell party.

It was a life-changing experience, and it certainly had a huge impact on everyone at the camp (we still keep in touch via social network). When I returned, the Lions had kindly organised a trip to see the Mayor of Sunderland to tell her all about the work that the Lions do and to share my experience of this trip.

**Leo Andrew Boreland**

## Scarborough Zumba experience

A group of local youngsters took part in a Zumba marathon to raise money for disadvantaged children and their teacher presented the cheque for £122 at a recent Club meeting to Scarborough President Lion Gareth Jones and Treasurer Lion Roy Chambers.



## Lions Signature projects



Lions Eye Health Programme

Young Leaders in Service

## Your March Spotlight on 105NE

Thank you for all the news that keeps rolling in. Apologies if your news has been missed in this issue.

If you have information you want passed to others please send this to [lionlachlan@btinternet.com](mailto:lionlachlan@btinternet.com)

Copy deadline for February 2012 is **Wednesday 22 February 2012** to allow for compilation.

I look forward to receiving more member, club, zone, region and district news.