

Garstang and District Lions

Japan Earthquake

Nearly two months after the devastating earthquake and subsequent tsunami and fires, Lions volunteers are still hard at work continuing the relief efforts. With more than 107,000 members in Japan, Lions live in the affected communities, so they best know the needs of the community and are able to respond quickly and efficiently. But they are also dedicated to providing relief for as long as it takes.

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) is providing US\$7 million to support Lions' relief efforts. This includes grants as well as donations from Lions around the world. 100 percent of every donation will go directly toward disaster relief. The Foundation has more than 40 years of experience in disaster relief, and all funds are administered by local Lions in the area.

The Tohoku Region Pacific Ocean Coast Earthquake is the worst earthquake to hit Japan in over 100 years. Following the earthquake was a powerful tsunami and fires. Hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced, and many Lions have also been personally affected. The Foundation is providing 100 tents to provide shelter for Lions and other relief workers.

Lions have established four relief command centres in the affected areas, as well as one in Tokyo at the Lions Office. They are also working with other organizations to help provide relief. Lions continue to meet with Japan Red Cross to formulate mid- to long-term joint relief solutions, including blood drives to address the severe shortage.

Lions Clubs International Foundation is the charitable arm of Lions Clubs International, the largest service club organization in the world with 1.35 million members in 206 geographic areas and countries. Annually, the Foundation awards millions in grant funding for natural disasters. LCIF has been named the number 1 non-governmental organisation according to a *Financial Times* study. Learn more about LCIF online at www.lcif.org.

Brian Vosper

Garstang Lions welcomed David Winsland, the Lions District Governor, at their last meeting. David was on hand to present Garstang Lion Brian Vosper with an award for 40 years of service and for being a Founder Member of the Garstang Club. Brian is still a very active member of the club and looks after all the finances in his position as Treasurer.

Easter Eggs

Easter will be behind us when you read this and all the Lions Easter Eggs will be with their new owners – if they have not been eaten already! In total there were 29 eggs distributed around the town with the following establishments selling more than one egg Church Inn (3), Crown Hotel (3), Kenlis Arms (2), Royal Oak (2) - figures correct at the time of going to press! The Lions would like to thank all concerned, both for hosting the Eggs and for taking part. As

usual all the profits will go into the Charity 'kitty' for distributing to worthy causes.

Rawcliffe Hall

The next activity for the Garstang Lions will be at Rawcliffe Hall during the Bank Holiday weekend on the 1st and 2nd of May where they will be in charge of car parking. The event is in three parts – Oldtimer Revival, Knights of the Damned, and a Classic Emergency Vehicle Show. Full details of this can be found on their web site – www.rawcliffehall.co.uk - and the Lions wish the organisers every success over the weekend.

Garstang Children's Festival

As usual the Lions will be helping with stewarding during the Festival on the 30th of May. The event takes a great deal of organising by those involved and the Lions would like to encourage everyone in the town and local areas to support the event as much as possible. Full details of the day can be found on the web site www.garstangchildrensfestival.org.

Bolton Lions

Three members of the Bolton Lions Club attended the last meeting in support of Brian Vosper and his 40 year membership. Garstang Lions pledged support for the Bolton Club in their upcoming sponsored walk to raise funds to provide disabled access for St Pauls Church, Astley Bridge

Great North Run

Two local Lions, Rob Barbour and David Hodgson, have entered for the Great North Run taking place in September. The Club will be sponsoring them in their charity fund raising and supporting them during their training – assuming that their training takes them past local pubs! More information will follow nearer the time.

H&S

The Lions are not exempt from the dreaded Health and Safety issues – but in reality these are mainly common sense issues and do not restrict what we do. The Lions H & S policy has been published on the web site and can be read by anyone interested.

As always the Lions welcome new members or anyone who is just interested in seeing what they do. Information is available on the web site www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/garstang Or just speak to a member or come along to a meeting – 3rd Tuesday of the month in the Royal Oak at 8.00pm.

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