



One Three Three District Newsletter

Number 150 21st December 2020.

Christmas Greetings and Messages

From DG Des Ryan

A Happy, Peaceful Christmas



Hello Lions,

A big 'Thank You' to all the clubs who have participated in the District Food Appeal. I know my own Club in Westport found the public to be very generous this year. People seemed more conscious of the need to help and there was a definite sense of appreciation for work we were doing, despite the challenges of Covid.

Irish Lions got some great PR this week, featuring twice on national television. Well done to Waterford Loins Club on featuring on 'Nationwide' and to Tullamore Lions Club for being on 'Ear to the Ground'. Both programmes were fantastic and showed how strong the organisation is at grass roots level.

Waterford's choir and carol singing looked glorious on the big screen. I was at the launch of the 'Hooves for Hospice' in Tallamore only a year ago, where a group of midlands Lions clubs had come together to raise funds for a new Hospice. They had set themselves a hefty target to be raised in three years, but already have over 400 animals in the herd and are going from strength to strength. Fantastic work by both clubs.

Finally, as this is my last message before Christmas and New Year, may I say to all of the Lions family on the island, have a very happy and peaceful Christmas. Stay positive and stay safe.

DG Des, Sara and Family

From VDG Ann Ellis 'Kindness Matters'



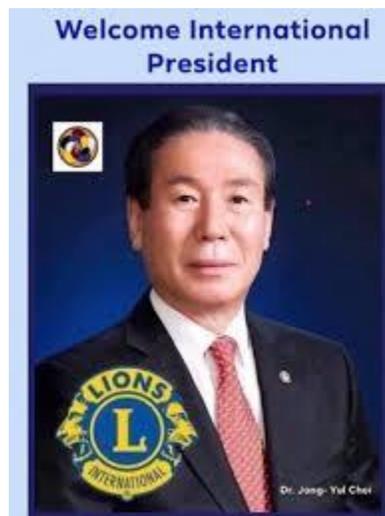
*A reflection by John O Donohue
An extract from 'Benedictus : A Book of Blessings'*

'There is a kindness that dwells deep down in things, it resides everywhere, often in places we least expect. The world can be harsh and negative but if we remain generous and patient, kindness inevitably reveals itself. Something deep in the human soul seems to depend on the presence of kindness: something instinctive in us expects it, and once we sense it, we are able to trust and open ourselves'.

Thank you for all of your support and kindness to me during 2020 as your VDG. The year so far has been different to what I had expected but I have learnt a lot and enjoyed it all. Despite a difficult year for all clubs, I feel that we as a District are stronger and more united going forward into 2021. Wishing you all a peaceful and happy Christmas and every blessing for 2021.

From Dr. Jung-Yul Choi International President

A Year of Kindness



This has been a year of overwhelming kindness—your kindness. And during the holidays this year, I ask you to share once more. Because for many families in our communities, this season will be more difficult than ever.

Your service is hope delivered, and that is what people need most. Comfort those who won't be among family this season. Plan a hunger project so that every family in your community can have a special holiday meal. Or consider a gift to LCIF—your foundation—and watch your kindness grow. But most of all, keep yourself and your family healthy and safe.

Thank you for your incredible year of service.

A Message from Santa Clause



‘One Three Three’ has secured access to an exclusive interview with Santa Clause, given to Micheline Corr of ‘The Firm’ recruitment consultants.

Readers can access the interview at the below link.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nzu73gGsxUo&t=5s>

A Christmas Poem from Lion Orla Favin



Traditions Old and New 2020

*Each year all the family meet on Christmas Eve to pray and light the Christmas candle,
To Mum and Dads all my Siblings would gather, and the hors d'oeuvres we would mangle.*

*Due to all the restrictions we know things can't be quite the same,
But to give up a tradition of lighting the candle would really be a shame.*

*So this year Christmas Eve via Zoom will see
each family log in,
To say hello, light their candles and let the
festivities begin.*

*The old tradition isn't quite the same but this
will make it new,
Together while staying apart means some
traditions we had to review.*

*So while the spiced beef is gently simmering
away upon the stove,
I'll wish my Lions family a happy and
healthy Christmas from Cobh.*

From The Editor

Into 2021

This issue of the District Newsletter is special for two reasons.

It is Number 150 -itself a milestone, and it is the final Newsletter in this strange year of 2020.

The next Newsletter will be dated Monday 11th January 2021 and all text and images (jpeg only) should reach me at fcorr100@gmail.com by 9am on Friday 8th January 2021.

I want to sincerely thank all Lions who contributed to the Newsletter in 2020- you have made it what it is, as indeed have all our readers. Please keep up the good work in 2021.

Wishing you peace and joy at Christmas
Namaste

Frank Corr

Season's Greetings



Well Done to Lion Frank Corr for his trojan work this year on this fine production. Many Thanks Frank. All those in Westport Lions Club send you and yours warm winter wishes . We look forward to a brighter New Year full of all the things we missed most from 2020, along with meeting (in person), events and fundraisers, after a well-deserved rest. Stay Safe.

**Caroline Goucher, Club Marketing
Communications Officer, Westport Lions
Club.**

350,000 Watch 'Lions' on RTE



The Lions message was communicated to an audience of more than 350,000 viewers when the RTE One 'Nationwide' programme devoted a 15 minute segment to the work of Lions Clubs International in Ireland and throughout the world.



Presenter Blanaid Ní Chofaigh introduced the work of Lions Clubs through an

interview with District Governor Des Ryan, who spoke about the voluntary nature of the organisation, the diversity of its service activities and the international reach of its projects.



Visuals of the inaugural Lions Clubs meeting in Chicago as well as clips of the Food Appeal in Cavan and other projects were screened during the interview. The programme also focussed on the work on Waterford Lions Club during the pandemic, its innovative donation cart created by Waterford Men's Shed and an interview with Maria Morrissey, president of Waterford Lions Club.

Later in the week the RTE farming programme 'Ear to the Ground' featured the 'Hooves for Hospice' project led by Tullamore Lions Club. The Hooves4Hospice project is still firing on all cylinders, with close to 400 animals in the herd at the moment, and based on the few sales to date, the value standing 'in the field' is in excess of half a million euro, less than 12 months into a three year programme . The

club has officially now set a target of €1 million for this project.



Children who raised funds to buy a cow



Mart scene from 'Ear to the Ground'

Sing It- and Dance



Westport Lions Club Service Officer, Maggie McGing has been instrumental in being the muscle behind the artist creation for The Westport Lions Club in collaboration with a local volunteer committee, the premises and the artist. This project has enhanced the streetscapes.

She says: 'Our feature this week is 'Happiness is listening to your favourite... Music', As the doors stay closed on some of our most loved public houses. The location for where we fondly gathered to listen to Our Favourite Music, We look forward to a year where simple things like a few of our favourite tunes in Matt Molloy's Bar or hosting our 'Mick Lavelle Tribute Night'. In this absence why not, turn up that radio, put on your favourite CD and sing out loud or dance your socks off, as we spread #PositiveVibes from Westport to You this festive season.

Lion Margaret McGing is pictured with President Kevin Brown at Matt Molloy's Bar, Westport.

Westport Food Appeal

Westport Lions were delighted to be hosted by SuperValu, for two full days of Annual Food Appeal collection for the Saint Vincent de Paul. Twenty five volunteers of Lions, Westport Men's Shed and friends participated.

It was a delight for Lions to be able 'To Serve' and be able to safely meet the public. The kindness and generosity of the people has shone through. The St. Vincent de Paul, Chairperson Maire Ruane and Treasure Stephen Breheny received the cheque for €5509.53 on for the local need that is required this year.

SVP Chairperson, Maire Ruane, expressed thanks to Westport Lions Club, *'for stepping again this year, the local need is bigger than every'*. Covid-19 has brought a range of domestic situation that SVdP assist to those in need, that helping hand on a dark day.

SVP Treasurer Stephen Breheny relayed the deficit of not being able to have their annual church gate collection this year. He commended Lion Brendan O'Malley for his organisation of the event and the collaboration of Staff and Management of SuperValu. *'The Lions Club continue to serve our community, this year, Brendan O'Malley is a true servant to those in need*



', adding that *'SuperValu makes it an easy task every year, but safety and social distancing were essential this year'*. When referring to the event coordinator, Lion O'Malley, with a smile *'He is Mighty'*. WLC President Lion Kevin Brown extended gratitude for the generosity of Westport especially in these difficult times for those facing hardships. The exceptional fund raising by all involved including donations from pupils of Rice College.

Pictured at the hand over of the cheque of €5509.53 to The Westport branch of The Saint Vincent de Paul were (from left) Lion Brendan O'Malley, SVP Chairperson Maire Ruane, Lion Sara Ryan, Lion Nicky Dowd, WLC President Kevin Brown, SVdP Treasurer Stephen Breheny and Lion Caroline Goucher.

Galway's New Lions

Following on from our article about the 16 new members who joined Galway Lions Club, many people have asked for their names. Galway Lions were hoping to organise a group photo of them, but unfortunately this was not possible. Galway Lions are thrilled that each of them has decided to join the club. The new members are:

Terry Casey, Evelyn Garvey, Paul Gillen, Eoin Gleeson, Maurice Hickey, Sean Lally, Fintan Loftus, Francis Murray, Iain McDonald, Daniel McMullin, Frank O'Neill, Muireann ni Riain, David Ryan, Brook Sheehan, Paul Shaughnessy and Michael Tarpey.

Readers who know any of these new members are invited to a message welcoming them into the family of Lions.

Tremendous Response to Carrick Walk

The local community responded very generously to the recent Carrick on Suir Lions Club 500km Fundraising Walk in aid of the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Food Appeal. The amount collected, through members sponsorship cards and through I Donate, amounted to a marvellous sum of €4,000. The I Donate appeal for funds remains open until the 29th December 2020

and the Lions Club thanks everyone who has contributed to this worthy cause to date.



Photo shows Lions Club President Brian White presenting a cheque for €6,000 to Michael Lonergan President of Carrick on Suir St Vincent de Paul as a contribution towards the cost of their Annual Christmas Food Appeal.

Picture by Tom Grace.

Cards for Patients

After the success of their Face Masks and Mugs Wicklow & District Lions Club is very much in festive mood with the introduction of their very own Christmas Cards.

Over the past week 400 beautifully designed and signed cards with the official Lions logo have been distributed to all the Nursing Homes and Direct Provision Centre in the area.

The reaction has been wonderful. President Sean Olohan has received letters of thanks and photographs from residents of the Nursing Homes opening the cards and placing them on their bedside lockers. Sean

wanted every resident to know that the whole community is thinking of them especially at Christmas through the local Lions Club. In some cases this is the only contact they have with the outside world especially with the Covid restrictions. So Santa has come early to Wicklow and he has spread a little joy and seasonal cheer to so many people at a difficult time before his official visit on December 25 .



Sean Olohan and John Mulqueen from Wicklow Lions presenting May Kavanagh from St Colman's Rathdrum with a special Lions Christmas card for every resident in the hospital

Full House for ‘Guiding Lion’ programme

The Guiding Lion programme led by Lion Stuart Young for Lions of District 133 on January 23rd has been fully booked. The programme will focus on the important skills of administration, motivation, team building ,communication, and listening. Building these skills will not only support you as a Lion but also in your personal and professional life.

Galway Christmas Projects



After five months of planning by a very hard working committee, Galway Lions launched its Radio Auction by zoom on local Radio Station, with Keith Finnegan from Galway Bay FM, Bishop Brendan Kelly, City Lord

Mayor, Cllr Mike Cubbard, Lions President Brian O Keeffe and auction Project Chairperson, Lion Geraldine Mannion.

The live online auction on Galway Bay FM was hosted by Keith Finnegan. Despite Covid restrictions the team succeeded in auctioning over 230 items, donated by local businesses. This resulted in receipts of over €40,000. In tandem with this project, many members of the public made cash donations, which brought in a further €25,000. The online auction platform needed serious upgrading and new member, Lion Frank O Neill, played the proverbial 'blinder', and his massive input resulted in a new more user friendly, intuitive online platform, which bidders and donors loved.

New Lions Muireann ni Riain and Maurice Hickey in collaboration with Lion Mary MacLynn, developed a new iDonate page for the club website. This was, in turn, promoted extensively on Facebook etc. by the PR and Comms team (Lion Tony Kavanagh and Lion Tom Joyce), and at the present time has hit almost €8,000. That is a total income of over €73,000 from our Christmas fund raising activities and is an amazing outcome, given the challenging times we are all going through.

These funds will facilitate the release of over 450 vouchers to the needy families in the city, in addition to funding many other deserving causes in 2021. Fundamentally this is testament to the incredible generosity of the public, our loyal supporters and friends.

In achieving this tremendous out turn, it was heartening to see the commitment and

enthusiasm of our existing and new members in particular, in getting auction items, helping with call backs to successful bidders and basically increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of the activities of the club.

Our pictures show Project Chairperson, Lion Geraldine Mannion with Keith Finnegan from local Radio Station, Galway Bay FM during the 2019 Auction, and Geraldine with President Brian O Keeffe, socially distancing and working remotely during the 2020 Auction...a tale of two very different years!



Downpatrick Christmas Spirit



Downpatrick Lions Club President Raymond Crea along with Joanne Murray from iCare deliver gifts and donations to SureStart.

Downpatrick Lions Club and iCare Charity were delighted with the response to their appeal for gifts and cash donations for disadvantaged teenagers and young people of the district.

A cheque for £300 was presented by Downpatrick Lions Club President Raymond Crea to iCare representative Joanne Murray who is manager of Home Care Support Services. Many gifts were also given to be distributed locally.



Downpatrick Lions Club President Raymond Crea presents iCare representative Joanne Murray with a cheque for £300 from the recent appeal.

SureStart were first to take delivery of a large selection of gifts including toys, toiletries and clothing which will go a long way to helping families over the festive season. SureStart Manager Pauline Gunstan expressed her thanks to Downpatrick Lions, iCare charity and everyone who contributed to this appeal.

Other organisations will also benefit from the generous donations this joint initiative has generated. Downpatrick Lions Club would like to thank everyone for their generosity and wish them a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

Christmas in Limavady



What a year we all have had to deal with. We have only had three meetings held this year due to Covid 19 pandemic. However we have still been busy supporting our local care facilities with PPE during the first wave, supporting our District appeal in

financial help of £1000, distributing 'Type 2 Diabetes' book markers' to our local pharmacies. Every Christmas we give financial support to two local schools/groups of whom provide education to special needs children and respite care for parents. We did not want this year to be different for them – so cheques for £200 were presented. Poppy appeal supported in November and wreath presented.



At our local residential home we usually provide a Christmas party where gifts, music from a local primary school and festive cheer but again things are very different. The local primary school made personalised Christmas cards for the residents and carol singing

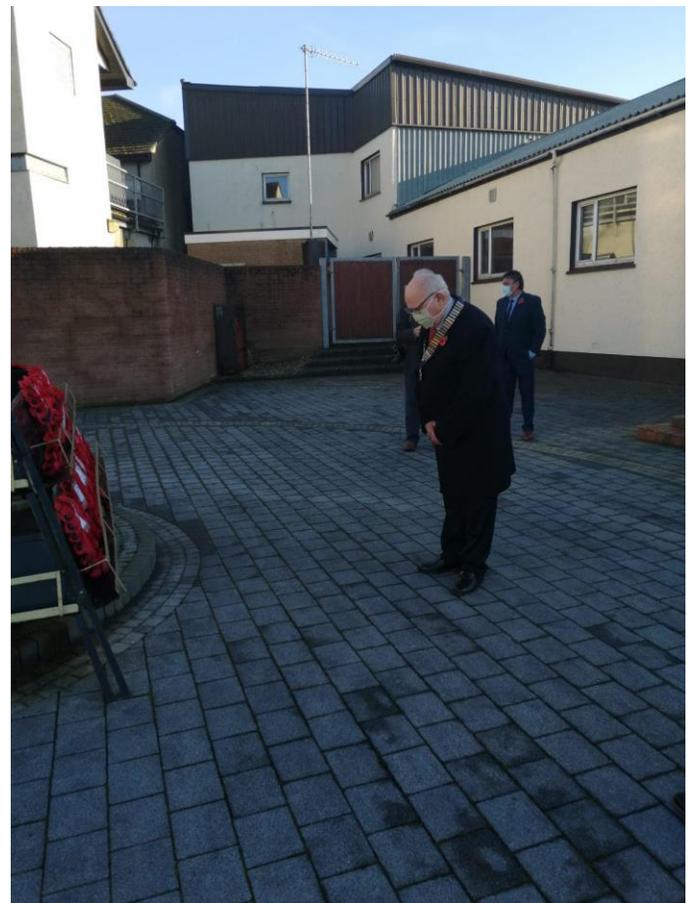
placed on Facebook for residents to watch at their leisure. Limavady Lions made up Christmas gifts and festive hamper for all to enjoy.

We have been unable to do any fund raising but hopefully we will double our effort next year.

We would like to thank our local public for all their support throughout the years.

We want to wish all Lions clubs a very Merry Safe and Healthy Christmas and New Year

- **Bob Dallas President Limavady Lions Club**



Christmas Cheer in Malahide



In an effort to bring some 'cheer' to the 104 residents in Talbot, Malahide Lions organized for the Transition Year students in Malahide Community School to design a personalized Christmas Card for each resident. A little ceremony/party will be organized in each 'pod'. We are very mindful that family visits will be very curtailed this Christmas and hope that these cards will help

gladden the hearts of the residents. Over the past 12 months or so we had forged a link between the TY students and the residents. A number of visits had taken place and work was ongoing on the production of a project entitled 'Then and Now in Malahide'. The idea is that the residents, most of whom are in their eighties, and the teenage students describe their respective youths in terms of school, family life, clothes, music, reading, entertainment and social interactions. The residents were very keen to talk to the students and vice versa. Unfortunately it came to an abrupt end as a result of Covid 19.

We are hoping to restart this work as soon as feasibly possible.

-Bernadette Murray, President Malahide Lions

Swords Supports Capuchin Centre

Each year a choir of 60 voices sings carols outside the GPO to raise funds for Bro Kevin Crowley's Capuchin Day Centre for the Homeless. Many of this choir are from the Swords district. They can't do so this year due to COVID-19. so, Swords and District Lions Club decided to make a donation of €500 on their behalf towards this very worthy cause.

Our photo (below) shows Club President Mark O'Brien (right) presenting the cheque to Shane Malone, a representative of Bro Kevin.




Lions Clubs International
District 133 - Ireland



CERTIFIED GUIDING LION COURSE

Saturday 23rd January 2021
10:00am - 2:30pm via Zoom

This workshop will help you :-

- To get the tools and information to support you in your work as a Club Member / Officer
- Locate resources available to assist the club



Guiding Lions also support clubs who do have that resource

Register your interest by emailing
VDG Ann Ellis - vdg@lionsclubs.ie

www.LionsClubs.ie




.....and that's all for this year

