

Nomination for 2nd Vice District Governor 2012 – 2013

Lion Lesley Clarke (Lions Club of Newquay Towan Blystra)

Lesley was born in Essex, where she grew up, apart from her first year of life being spent in St Columb in Cornwall, having been evacuated with her mother to where her father was serving with the Royal Air Force at St Eval. She attended Leyton County High School, progressing to West Ham College to continue her studies assisting her with her employment working in the paint laboratories of Berger Jenson Nicholson in Stratford, London.

In 1966 her family and their business relocated to Thetford in Norfolk, at which time she became involved in the family garage, which she eventually ran until her move to Cornwall. It was here that she married her first husband and had three children. Unfortunately this did not work out. She met Ken Clarke and they were married in 1986 at Gretna Green. Between them they have five children, and 10 grandchildren.

She first became involved with the Lions in Thetford when Ken joined in 1988, helping with fund raising and attending social events. Shortly after joining they re-located to Cornwall where they became involved with Newquay Lions. Although never becoming a Lion, because the club would not accept lady members, she was always there to help and assist in all that was taking place. She was able to assist Ken with his progression through Lions up to District Governor in 1996.

Lesley joined politics in 1994 and went on to serve as Mayor of Newquay for two consecutive years in 2000 and then in 2004 became Mayor of the Borough of Restormel. Due to relocation to Truro, being out of the area, she decided to retire at the elections of 2007. She is actively involved with many organisations in Newquay, being Chairman of the Newquay Gateway Club, President of the Newquay Dramatic Society, to name but two. Recently Ken and Lesley were presented with an award from the Newquay Voice (a local paper) for their contribution to the life and community of Newquay, on behalf of the town.

In 2008 it was decided to start a mixed club, Newquay Towan Blystra Lions, of which Lesley and Ken were the instigators, both becoming charter members. During this time of chartering the club, her husband Ken suffered a stroke during an emergency heart operation, she became his full time carer until his recent passing. But despite all of this and since being a lion she has been fully committed, becoming the Charter Treasurer and is now serving a second year as President. She is also serving her second year as District Secretary, a role which she has found able to carry out despite her personal circumstances, to be exciting and fulfilling, putting all her past knowledge of Lions Clubs International to use.

She has always taken an interest at MD and International levels, and has attended many Multiple District and International Conventions, enabling her to make many long term friends throughout Great Britain and the World. She has also attended the French MD103W Convention several times and recently has attended the Senior Lions Leadership Institute held at Maastricht where she was a group leader. She is confident and able to serve 105SW as 2nd Vice District Governor 2012/2013.