



Welcome from the editor

Welcome to the October edition of the D71 newsletter. In this month's edition, you'll see contributions from Division H members as well as Claire Crowther, D71's new Accredited Speaker! There's also news from around the District, and a quiz by Division H member Elizabeth Jordan DTM. Next month's edition will feature stories from Division E, including highlights from the Steel City Conference November 3 – 5! As always, your contributions – and feedback! – are welcome. [Please contact the D71 leadership team by clicking here.](#) Thank you!

Division H Editorial

By Daniel Sandars DTM, Division H Director

What a cracking start to the life of our new Division. A lot has happened since our Division Director Robert 'Red' Skelton cut the launch cake on the 30th June and I stepped up from my former role as Area 44 Director:



- Immediately we were involved with supporting District Champion Vinette Hoffman-Jackson's preparations for the semi-finals of the World Championship of Public Speaking in Vancouver where she just missed out on a place in the finals;
- We have also seen 27 awards with members Elizabeth Jordan, John Kendall, Darren Walton, and myself earning their DTMs with a fifth, Steve Wellman, expected soon leading to three triple crowns;
- This productive start helped see East Herts Speakers become the first UK club in Districts 71 and 91 to earn five or more Distinguished Club Program goals;
- Motivational Speaker Jillian Haslam, a member of Hertfordshire speakers, won the Mother Teresa Award for work with the poor of Calcutta (Kolkata) India;
- On the public relations front we seen Steve Campion, Area 20 Director, have an article published nationally by the District's agent

Chantal and another one entitled "Want to win over an audience? How to improve your presentation skills" published in the Guardian newspaper; and

- On 14th October we held our first Division Conference.

Very many congratulations to these wonderful people. Some of their endeavours are written up in this District Newsletter. In addition, we have

- Under the Program Quality theme, we have the case for the leadership track and a review of the DTM;
- Under a Club Growth theme, we have a case study on open night success, the case for being a new club sponsor, and the case for Advanced Clubs; and
- On a wider note, we have a fun quiz on Division H, an overview of the part of the world that makes up Division H, and a member's experience of how Toastmasters helped him speak as father of the bride.

DON'T MISS OUT! Story page 3

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CONFERENCE
3-5 NOVEMBER 2017
SHEFFIELD
steelcity2017.co.uk

Still time to book! visit steelcity2017.co.uk.



From our District Director

Alas, another month has flown by and it is time to give you an update to what is happening across the District. As you know, it is Division contest time leading onto the District finals at the Steele Conference in Sheffield 3 – 5 Nov where the best will compete against the best. I would like to wish all contestants the best of luck and to those that win their respective Division, Congratulations and see you in Sheffield!

How many times have you heard, “The Revitalized Education Program is coming”? So many times that in the end they had to change the name to Pathways? How many times have you heard “Pathways is coming” only to be told it is delayed? I am here to tell you, “Pathways is coming” and we have a tentative date of March 2018!

This is the first time I actually feel that it will really happen and we, as a District, need to be prepared. You will be hearing titles like Pathway Ambassadors and Pathway Guides being tossed around. In fact you should be expecting to see these two individuals in your local club in the near future to explain Pathways and to help get your club familiar with Pathways and where to find it and how to login. Club officers, these individuals will need about one hour on your agenda to explain Pathways so please accommodate this request. Ask questions they have considerable knowledge on Pathways and how to navigate this portal. Don't spend a great deal of time trying to find something which will only end in frustration. Chances are they had the same questions or queries when they first started so please contact them for assistance.

Another area that I would like to talk about is quality clubs. This is important as our clubs are extensions of the members. If you have a guest turn up and the meeting is chaos and not professionally run, the odds of the guest coming back are slim and the chance of the guest becoming a member is practically none. We owe it to the members to have a well-run, well organized meeting with a high standard. This will keep members coming back and the guests that come will want to become members. I am truly impressed with the charter clubs that I have visited. They truly have quality clubs

with high standards which gives me the desire to go back for a return visit.

District Director Red Skelton with Bob Hooey at the Division 5 Area 60 Speech Contest in Glasgow 30 Sept.



Remember, the Steele City Conference is coming up fast. The conference team have been working tirelessly to present a conference that will be memorable for the member. If you have booked the conference, thank you. If you are still thinking about it, go ahead and book it. If you are not thinking about going, then perhaps you should give it some thought. It is so hard to put into words what it is like attending the District conference. So many liked-minded people together to learn from each other, support each other and of course laugh with each other.

Well, this is it for this month. Hope to as many of you as possible in Sheffield and if you see me running around please feel free to stop me and say hi.

Red

Red Skelton
District 71 Director

Inside

Steel City Preview | Money Matters | District Director Update | D71 DTMs Through the Years | “Will you sponsor me?” | D71 Quiz | “Did you know?”



The STEEL CITY CONFERENCE is imminent!

Do you remember the film *“Planes, Trains and Automobiles”*? That excellent 1987 film starring Steve Martin and the late, great John Candy?

In early November lots of you will be using planes, trains and automobiles to travel to Sheffield for the **LAST** District 71 November conference - [Steel City 2017](#) 3-5 November 2017.

If you haven't already booked, then do so immediately and come to Steel City 2017 to. . .

Support the contestants in both the Humorous Speech and Table Topics contests. Be entertained by their skilful use of humour and be wowed by their impromptu speaking skills.

Play Rhetoric - the public speaking game on Friday and on Saturday listen to **Florian Mueck**, keynote speaker, and one of the creators of Rhetoric.



Attend workshops which include:

- **Clare Crowther**, D71's only Accredited Speaker - *“Listen To Solve”*
- **Colm McGlade** - *“Deliver with Impact”*
- **John Middleton** - *“Mentoring”*
- **Vinette Hoffman-Jackson**, D71's International Speech winner 2017 - *“Storytelling”*
- **Tom Hebel** - *“The Story of You”*
- **Florian Mueck** - *“Speech Structuring”*
- **Brendan Haughton** - *“What's Your Legacy?”* (YLP) and more!

Be entertained by fellow Toastmasters as they take to the stage at the **“Open Mic Comedy”** session on Friday night.



Finally, if you can tear yourself away from all the excitement, check out Sheffield - the home of The Crucible Theatre, a must-see cathedral, the Women of Steel statue, the Peace Gardens, the Winter Garden, a high street of retail therapy - and more.

So how are you getting to Sheffield - plane, train or automobile? If you are driving, then check out this piece of dialogue from the film:

State Trooper: *What the hell are you driving here?*

Del: *We had a small fire last night, but we caught it in the nick of time.*

Trooper: *Do you have any idea how fast you were going?*

Del: *Funny enough, I was just talking to my friend about that. Our speedometer has melted and as a result it's very hard to see with any degree of accuracy exactly how fast we were going.*

Slow down, arrive safely and see you in Sheffield.

Patricia O'Reilly, DTM
D71 Program Quality Director





H is for Homeland!

By Daniel Sandars DTM, Division H Director

This year the District realigned to create its 10th Division called H made from the western half of the as then Division G. So where is it and what are they like in those strange lands?

The Division covers 15 clubs in cities from Peterborough in the North, St Albans in the South, Milton Keynes in the West and Cambridge in the East. We border In the



Elizabeth Jordan, Immediate Past Area 20 Director at Hatfield House, childhood home of Elizabeth I

South and West District 91, in the North Division E and to the West the realigned Division G.

We also have one foot in court life and the city and

one foot in the countryside. The best country seats were to be had within a day's horse ride of London and one such example Hatfield house is shown in the backdrop of Elizabeth Jordan's photo. Hertfordshire Speakers, who have recently turned 20, meet in Hatfield. London's thrall doesn't stop at stately homes it is seen in the new towns of Stevenage, Harlow, and Milton Keynes and before them the Garden Cities Welwyn and Letchworth. Life is not all about the city rat-race as Huntingdonshire speakers adjourn meetings for dinner.

History doesn't stop with the stately homes. West Herts Speakers meets near the great Norman Abbey in St Albans and North Bucks Speakers meeting at a lakeside Christian retreat at Willen (Milton Keynes) where a theological library has existed since 1680. Our oldest (1/1/1986) club Eldergate Toastmasters is also in Milton Keynes where they train alongside our national Badminton squad. On the other hand, our newest club G-Toast UK (1/12/2016) meets near the ancient university town of Cambridge.

As the photo of Vicky Lester alludes to, our lands are on the transition between the grain producing arable lands of East Anglian and the grasslands and mixed farming of the Cotswolds, Midlands, and the Western counties. The ability to easily access most major farming soils and systems in England is the reason why research and education in soils and agricultural engineering is centred here.



'Be a Toastmaster in Milton Keynes...set your sails free' Bradwell Windmill, Vicky Lester Area H 44 Director

The geology of the area is one of flat sedimentary clays and rocks over ridden by the southern extent of the last Ice age yielding flat plateaus cut through by rivers and modest pushed up rock ridges. The plateaus are homes to many airfields and Silverstone racetrack. Anglia Communicators started out life as an airbase club, Bedford Speakers are in the shadow of the great Imperial Airship hangars build for airships such as the R101, and Cranfield Speakers is located at then only University with an airport as well as an ordnance testing facility and entirely postgraduate student body.

Are you throwing away half your money?

By Steve Campion ACS ALB, Area H 20 Director

Like many people, I joined Toastmasters because I hated speaking in public. I would forget what I wanted to say, stumble over my words and struggle to walk as my knees turned to jelly. With practice and plenty of encouragement, that improved dramatically. Well worth the money, I thought. Then I discovered the leadership track, which I sometimes call "Oh, the other manual".

We all know how to listen, don't we?

How about thinking about what someone has said, or providing effective feedback? I thought counting all those "ahs" and "ums" would be easy, but it's surprisingly difficult to do well. I learned that rather than simply reporting "3 ums", it's better to say something like "I notice that you tend to say 'um' after the word 'with' in long sentences, and when you need to refer to your notes. I suggest trying shorter sentences to make it easier to remember". It's not easy, but it's very rewarding when you get it right. I've found that these skills help me at work too. Nothing surprises my colleagues more than when they realise I'm actually listening to them!

Being a Toastmaster provides plenty of opportunities to learn outside of meetings too. Organising a special event or serving on a club committee helps develop organisational skills and the ability to work with others. Encouraging people to visit the club and to become a new member allows you to practice informing and persuading others. You can also practice with websites and social media, or planning a club budget.

The Competent Communication manual is only the start. You can serve on a committee, do a "High Performance Leadership" project (an excellent idea) or volunteer for a District role. If you want to learn about managing events and leading people, there are lots of ways that your Toastmasters membership can help.



I (gladly) paid my membership fees to improve my public speaking, but I quickly realised I was wasting half my money if I didn't also learn from the leadership track. I was surprised at how useful it has been at home and at work, and now I know why Toastmasters is "Where leaders are made". So, avoid wasting half your money and see what the leadership track can do for you.

Smedley Award: The results are in!

The following clubs managed to add 5 or more new, dual or reinstated members between August 1st and 30th September:

- Castleknock Toastmasters 5 members
- Manchester Orators 7 members
- Spa Speakers 8 members
- Sheffield Speakers 5 members
- Warrington Toastmasters. 5 members
- Bishopstow Toastmasters 6 members
- West Cork Toastmasters. 5 members
- Accentuators 5 members

These clubs will all receive prizes of a monetary value to spend in the Toastmasters International Shop, as well as the Smedley Award ribbon.

Presidents, please check your emails for information from Club Growth Director John Cox on how to redeem your prizes.

D71 Distinguished Toastmasters (DTM) Awards “through the years”

By John Kendall DTM, President Cornerstones Communicators Advanced Toastmasters Club

So, we are very proud to report that our new division has started the year with a crop of new (well some of them) Distinguished Toastmasters: Daniel Sandars, Elizabeth Jordan, John Kendall & the 4th Darren Walton from Huntingdonshire who gave his to Saffron Walden Speakers (now Division G). We should also recognise that Sue Savage earned her in the last ten days of the previous Toastmasters year and Steve Wellman is expected to earn his shortly.

Why concentrate on Distinguished Toastmasters (DTMs)? They are the pinnacle of Toastmaster educational awards requiring time serving clubs & district and over 40 speeches. They show that our clubs are providing a valuable service to our members. Table 1 shows the number of DTM awards over the last eight years for our District and our Division

Table 1: Number of new DTMs awards earned each year in our division

Year	District 71	In Division G (+ H)	Notes
2010/11	18	2	
2011/12	18	3	including our District Director Red Skelton
2012/13	21	2	
2013/14	15	3	
2014/15	9	1	Year after District 91 (D91) split out
2015/16	15	5	
2016/17	19	4	
2017/18 to date	8	4	Division H created
Total	123	24	

Our District 71 gave birth (Reformation in TI (Toastmasters International) Jargon) to a new district D91 (Covering London & Southern Britain) in Mid-2014, so before that date these figures include those from clubs now in D91



John Kendall receives his DTM from fellow DTM Bob Fergusson at Hertfordshire Speakers club

Something must have happened about the same time as the split to Division G because it then went from producing 10% of the DTMs in our district to 20%, probably due to the concentration effect of becoming a bigger fish in a smaller pond

More recently our new Division H was created (Realigned in TI Jargon) from the western half of what was previously Division G only on the 1st July 2017.

In fact, 17 of these 24 DTMs in G have gone to past & current members of what are now Division H clubs.

With the new education program of pathways planned to come in 2018 to our district we expect to see another good crop of DTMs this year across all Divisions as members race to claim credit on the current program before it closes.

“Will you sponsor me?”

By Steve Campion ACS ALB Area H 20 Director

“Will you sponsor me?” For years, that innocuous phrase was associated with a young child thrusting a grubby piece of paper at me in the fervent hope that I would give them money for their sponsored run, swim or game of tiddly-winks. When I was asked about helping to sponsor new Toastmasters club, I thought: “how hard can it be?” Well, I found out. Here are some of things I learned:

- **Run open house events.** We had an initial “taster” meeting in the town hall to launch the club, but it was several months before running the next one. They’re fun events and a wonderful way to find more members, so in retrospect should have run them more frequently
- **Ask for help:** Although the nearest clubs were at some distance away, we were lucky to have members of other clubs visiting on a regular basis. Getting help from experienced Toastmasters makes an enormous difference as they can demonstrate how to perform meeting roles and can provide guidance to newer members
- **Explore different venues:** When our main venue wasn’t available for one of our meetings, we held the meeting in a local pub instead. We found that our members preferred the atmosphere of the pub, so we decided to move permanently
- **Promote the club.** Build a website, set up a Facebook group, a Meetup/Eventbrite page,



Steve Campion explains the Toastmasters Educational program to guest at an open night of the then prospective Saffron Walden speakers club

and print a few posters/flyers. Designate someone to follow-up on all enquiries and visitors. Remember that getting visitors is only the first step. You need to ask them to join too

• **Keep track of the paperwork.** We had a lot of excitement once we realised we had enough members to charter the club, and then even more “excitement” when we realised we didn’t know where all the membership forms were. If you’re expecting to charter in June, get the paperwork in early as Toastmasters

International can take a long time to process it

It took thirteen months from our first meeting to the chartering Saffron Walden Speakers club. It’s been an exhilarating (and occasionally exhausting) experience. We learned a great deal, built a great club, and had a lot of fun along the way. If anyone asks if you want to sponsor a club, say yes. If there’s potential for a new club in your area and nobody asks, maybe you could start it yourself!

[Saffron Walden Chartered 20/6/2017 in Area 14, realigning to Area G 41 on the 1/7/2017]



Freshers' and demo night success!

By Vicky Lester CC ALB Area H 44 Director and Olivia Steward Vice President of Public Relations Cranfield Speakers Club

October for Cranfield Speakers club is without doubt the busiest month for both our PR activities and guest attendance at meetings. It may be unique to our club, but being located on the campus of Cranfield University gives us a peak interest period that starts in October when new students arrive on campus to start their studies.

The Cranfield Speakers club (District 71, Area H 44) membership base is drawn from community members, staff, and students. It benefits from being highly multinational and multicultural, but regularly



Vicky Lester (back) chatting to students at the Cranfield University Fresher's fair

expands to nearly 30-40 members or shrinks to 10-14 core members with the comings and goings of students.

There are fresher's fair events that take place early October

where students can find out about what's going on in the area and sign up for things they are interested in. It is key for Cranfield Speakers club to be seen at these events. The earlier students can find out about us and how Toastmasters can help them with both their communication and leadership skills, the better, they can make sure it's in their schedule from the start!

Both last year and this year we had approximately 100 students at our open demo meeting. At the open demo night, we focus on a shorter program with an example of an experienced speaker and a beginner as well as fun accessible table topics, well explained roles, and a strong



100-120 Postgraduate Freshers gather with 11 Cranfield Speakers members and 7 Visiting Toastmasters for the 2017 Open Night

well led evaluation team. We also allow ourselves more time for networking with our guests all helped along with an exciting range cakes and refreshments.

The relatively few core members of the club are helped by half a dozen or more visiting Toastmasters from Area H44 along with a few former members. On behalf of the Cranfield Speakers club I would like to thank those wonderful Travelling Toasties.

Extra special and fun for us this year is our card payment terminal that allows us to take membership fees right then and there in a meeting, really keeping things easy for our new members to sign up and get their ice breaker speech booked in!

If you're in the area we'd love to welcome any passing by Toastmaster to visit us!

We meet every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, 6pm, L&D room, building 33, Cranfield University campus, Beds.

- facebook: www.facebook.com/cranfieldtoastmasters
- e: cranfieldtm@gmail.com
- w: <http://cranfield.toastmasterclub.org>



Did you know...

... that it was 1960 before the first club in London was formed?

Can you guess what it was called?

Did you also know...

That in 1962, the District was downgraded?

1960 began with the chartering of the first club in London, unsurprisingly named the First London club. The charter, #3068, was presented to Club President W.A. Young, by DG Whiteford on January 20th in the Railway Hotel, Edgware. In welcoming the club to District 18, Mr Whiteford said ... "the formation of this club represented the first break-through into the London area which had shown hitherto a rather surprising reluctance to be converted".

President Young, in reply, said that he first came into contact with Toastmasters in 1951, when, he became an associate of the Elgin (Scotland) club. The seed thus sown then germinated, and the next year he decided to form a club in London. He expressed his thanks to Area Governor N Grossmith and members of the Aylesbury club for the assistance they had so willingly given during the formation stages. Among the guests were the Area Governor of England, Mr Grossmith (one Area Governor for the whole of England!), and the Presidents of the Aylesbury, Buckingham and Cotswold (United States Air Force) clubs with several of their members. American Air Force clubs played an important part in our history later through one of their members, Gaylord Giles.

The '60s brought a major change in the governance of Toastmasters in these islands by the change, in 1962, from a District (D18) to Territory #1. In 1961, D18 agreed new arrangements with the International Board of Directors. District officers were only too aware of the cultural differences between America and Britain, manifested principally in the educational material produced by TI. The agreement was to the effect that D18 would relinquish the designation "District" and become a "Territory". And so Territory #1 was constituted on 1st January, 1962, with a governing body

known as the "Territorial Council of the British Isles", or TCBI, its first President being John Blaney, 7 Kyle Park Avenue, Uddingston, Glasgow. Members, henceforth, would pay just \$1 "capitation fee", or annual subscription, to TI, and subscription to the Toastmaster magazine would be voluntary. The TCBI drew up its own constitution and byelaws, which were approved by the TI Board of Directors, giving the TCBI Council much autonomy in running its affairs.



Did you know. . . ? is a regular feature of the District 71 newsletter written by Ted Corcoran, DTM, Past International President of Toastmasters.

Ted has documented the development of Toastmasters in Ireland and Britain in **A Comprehensive History of Toastmasters in Great Britain and Ireland: 1935–2014.**

To read more of Ted's history of Toastmasters, visit <http://d71Toastmasters.org/history/>



Why not spread your wings?



By Binal Sawjani ACB ALB, VPPR; John Kendall DTM, President; and Cliff Hurst ACB ALB, VPM of Cornerstone Communicators Advanced Toastmasters Club

Progressing through the Advanced Manuals? Just been awarded or near to your Competent Communicator award? Aspiring to completing your DTM? Or even completed your DTM? Many of us wanted the challenge of moving out of our comfort zone which is why we created Cornerstone Communicators. Founded in 2010 we have a membership of around 20 and many members speak professionally outside of Toastmasters and have an ambition to present on the TED stage or run workshops professionally.



Cornerstone is an Advanced Club which enables members (who remain members of their home

club) the opportunity to do things differently. We have stimulating workshops at most meetings run by accomplished speakers so you can further develop your speaking and leadership skills.

Workshops, delivered by experts, in the last few months have covered

- Debating techniques
- Death by PowerPoint
- How to speak to journalists

- How to add humour to any speech

The club offers a supportive environment with every speech given a longer than normal and open evaluation by the whole club to ensure you get the maximum benefit of the experienced speakers present. Over half the members are DTMs, on the verge of getting their DTM or are professional speakers. In addition, we devote

more time to table topics than most clubs with fun improv sessions to challenge you.



'Cornerstone really supports your growth as a speaker and there is so much experience in the room you can't help but have some of it rub off on you' Binal Sawjani - Current Member

To take your speaking skills to the next level, why not come and experience a meeting? We meet in Markyate (just south-west of Luton), near junction 9 of the M1 every third Monday of the month. Guests are always welcome. Contact John Kendall for more details: j.kendall@virgin.net or 07765 951755 or visit cornerstonecommunicators.org.

Hertfordshire Speakers' Toastmaster wins Mother Teresa International Award

By Elizabeth Jordan DTM, Immediate Past Area 20 Director

Jillian Haslam, a member of Hertfordshire Speakers Club, was recently awarded the prestigious Mother Teresa Memorial International Award for her Social and Humanitarian work in India. The award recognised her



Jillian Haslam with the Mother Teresa Memorial International Award 2017 at the Mother House

tremendous contributions towards the betterment of the poor and marginalized sections of people in Calcutta and elsewhere in the world. In Kolkata Jillian and her dedicated teams work with children (she has 5 study centres); the aged (she has 3 food-banks); for the disabled (children who are blind, suffering with Thalassaemia, Autism or Cerebral Palsy); with the youth and women in need. To learn more, please visit www.remediatrust.org.

Her close connection to India, and commitment to helping the poor, is a natural step for Jillian who was born to Anglo-Indian parents and spent her childhood living in abject poverty in Calcutta (now Kolkata). Jillian & her siblings grew up living under people's steps and in an Indian slum. Their lives were saved by the poorest of the poor and she wanted nothing more than to be able to repay their kindness understanding only too well, the true meaning of "poverty". She got her first respectable

job in 1995 and given her passion, she was made the Head of Charity for all employee networks at Bank of America. She understood the power of education, joined Toastmasters and mastered the skills that she needed to meet the needs of those in desperate need. In her brilliant book, *Indian English*. (available at www.jillianhaslam.com). A Memoir, she tells her story of growing up an English girl in post-colonial India. The book is harrowing yet ultimately positive and redemptive.

Asked how she felt about receiving the Mother Teresa Memorial International Award, Jillian explained in very moving words. "There was a time when I queued up to get a packet of biscuits, a bag of clothes and sometimes, a bag of powdered milk from the Sisters of Charity every Friday. I got a pat from Mother herself in Mominpur. I grew up seeing how she helped so many and I wanted nothing more than to do the same and to learn to give back. Today, to be chosen and given this prestigious award in her name is unbelievable. Words cannot



Jillian Haslam

describe how blessed I feel and how determined I am to walk in her footsteps. It is an honour to be born in this great city, the city she called her home and my parents called their home. I want to use this as a stepping stone to continue and carry out her word and to try and alleviate some of the misery, the sadness and the trauma that comes with poverty.

Jillian gave a speech about her awards to members of Hertfordshire Speakers Club on October 23rd. She was also a guest speaker at the Division H conference and contest on 14th October.

“Evviva Gli Sposi!”

By Michael Hurford of Anglia Communicators Club

It was February 2017 and my goal was simple... To give a Father of the Bride Speech at my daughter's wedding in July ... less than six months away!

With the Big Day looming and my great desire to enjoy the build-up, the main part of the day and the speech, I sought to find out how I could prevent fear from allowing me to savour the whole experience.

With a mountain to climb ahead of me, I went to my first Toastmasters meeting at Anglia Communicators with no idea of what to expect or if it would help me. It was cold outside but the welcome from the members was very warm indeed! As I introduced myself, my throat was dry, my voice tremored slightly and my mind went completely blank.

In 6 months, my development was phenomenal; I learnt how to construct a speech, how to present it and how to think of the audience. I developed techniques on how to reduce fear, how to get the stress levels down and tackle those nerves. I also became aware of the importance of eye contact and not using filler words like uh er and um. From my prepared speeches to Table Topics, I went from strength to strength!

I can't say I've cracked it in 6 months but I have definitely come a hell of a long way in a very short time. The biggest thing I got from my friends at Toastmasters was experience and confidence.... Invaluable.

How did it go? Well - I knocked it out of the park! A fabulous day, a wonderful speech and an awesome experience, the men laughed and the women cried! Without the regular practice in front of a supportive audience, I would never have gained the confidence to deliver as I did. I delivered for myself, I delivered for my wife and most importantly – I delivered for my daughter.



Father of the Bride Michael Hurford

As I finished with the final toast (in perfectly practiced Italian!), my wife hugged me saying “that was brilliant”. My daughter, with a tear in her eye, immediately stood and kissed me - she couldn't find the words! The whole audience stood and applauded and I knew to enjoy it!

But that's not why I did it; I did it because I wanted to do a great job and enjoy it and thanks to Toastmasters, I did!



Club Growth Director's Report

We are now a quarter of the way through the Toastmaster Year and much is happening. Division Contests are well underway and the Steel City Conference is only days away.

We already have our first four clubs Chartered! Congratulations go to **Edinburgh Advanced Toastmasters, Salford Toastmasters, Dunfermline Toastmasters** and **UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School Toastmasters**.

We have a healthy list of 19 pre-charter clubs but we need more. Take a look around your areas – look at where there is potential for another club and get one started. Contact me for lots of tips and ideas on starting new clubs and download Toastmasters International's **How to Build a Toastmasters Club** – a step-by-step guide to growing a successful club. Sadly, it looks like we will be losing a few clubs this year so we urgently need their replacements.

Starting and growing a club is an extremely rewarding leadership experience and a great foundation if you want to start and grow your own business – it's the same set of skills and I promise you will learn a lot.

I'm currently encouraging clubs with 12 or fewer members to consider having a Club Coach if they don't have one – as a result I will be looking for more members to come forward with offers to take on that role. Being a club coach can earn you credit towards the Advanced Leader Silver Award. Contact me for more information.

Memberships have just been renewed and I'd like to congratulate all those club Treasurers who managed to get all their club dues paid on time. But at the time of writing we still had a few clubs where renewals had not yet been made or are incomplete. Please do your best to get the last few membership dues paid urgently. Thirty-one clubs have appeared to pay 100% of their base members' dues on time but I am awaiting full

details from Toastmasters International.



Membership growth is looking quite good – 13 clubs have already achieved 8 or more new members in this Toastmasters year. Galway Club (Div F12) has 9 new members, Bullring Speakers (Div E39) and Aberdeen Toastmasters (Div S43) have had 10 new members; Clonmel Toastmasters (Div D08), Spa Speakers (Div E39), Deutsche Bank Toastmasters Birmingham (Div E39), and Didsbury Speakers (Div E48) 11 new members, and currently top of the table is Accentuators (Div M02) with 12 new members – well done to them all.

Please see page 4 for the list of D71's Toastmasters International's Smedley Award Winners!

Can I remind you of the District Incentives? They can be downloaded at

I hope to have the Club and Membership Growth Toolkit finished soon; I'm currently trawling through Area Directors Club Visit Reports for more examples of good practice. Once this is completed I will be working with those who have put their names forward for Club and Membership Growth Champions to help me share all these great ideas.

In the meantime, please keep up the brilliant work helping our Clubs, Areas, Divisions and District to be excellent.

John Cox, [Club Growth Director](#)



Clare Crowther: the UK and Ireland's first Accredited Speaker!



Clare Crowther received her Accredited Speaker award at the Toastmasters International Convention in Vancouver in August

In our Summer edition, we introduced you to Toastmasters member, Clare Crowther from Hull, and highlighted her journey towards scaling the higher echelons of professional public speaking. Since then, we're delighted to announce that Clare has succeeded in becoming the 70th Toastmasters International Accredited Speaker, the first person to achieve this status in the UK and, in fact, in Europe!

Clare gave her winning presentation at the Toastmasters International Convention in Vancouver, Canada in August, in front of an enthusiastic audience.

During her presentation, entitled 'Listen...to solve', Clare drew from her background as a business consultant with a particular interest in change management to explore reasons why some people can't seem to manage their

own challenges and, who, despite being offered obvious solutions, struggle repeatedly to make meaningful progress.

Clare achieved Level 1 on 20 May 2017 and also holds Toastmasters International Advanced Communicator Silver (ACS) and Advanced Leader Bronze (ALB).

Commenting on her achievements Clare said, "This has been a fascinating journey, one that's been made all the more rewarding for being very challenging at times. When I first joined Hull Speakers Club in 2012, I could not have imagined the exciting journey that lay ahead of me to become the UK's first Accredited Speaker. Along the way, I've met wonderful people, had personal triumphs and disappointments to deal with, and have learnt so much. For me, the programme's not just been about effective communication and its role in business and life's successes (and failures). It's been about learning about myself, and what it's possible to achieve through being supported and determined to reach my final destination. I'm now looking forward to supporting others along the same journey."

All of us at District 71 extend our sincere congratulations to Clare for this momentous achievement!

If you are interested in learning more about the Accredited Speaker program, please [visit the Toastmasters website here](http://www.toastmasters.org).



October District 71 Prize Quiz !

By Elizabeth Jordan DTM, Immediate past Area 20 Director

1. Which club in Area 14 was started on an American air base in 2002?
2. Which Area 20 club celebrated its 20th charter anniversary in March this year?
3. England's professional world class Badminton Squad train alongside Toastmasters meeting at which Area 44 club?
4. What is the nickname of the current District 71 Director?
5. What is the name of the Toastmaster who represented District 71 in the Semi-Finals of the World Championship of Public Speaking in Vancouver in August?
6. Claiming a theological library at this site dating back to 1680 The Benedictine St Michael's Priory, set on the romantic shore of a lake, is the meeting place of which Area 44 club?
7. Which Norman cathedral is in the same city as West Herts Speakers?
8. The 2005 film Kinky Boots was set in, and based on the local traditional industry of, the namesake town of which Area 44 club?
9. Which club in Area 14 has a dinner break so members can enjoy a meal?
10. Which former Area 44 Director is now the Division H Director?
11. In which ancient University City is the Toastmasters Club G-Toast UK located?
12. Which Area 44 club meets on the campus of, and attracts members from, the only University that exclusively offers postgraduate education, has an airfield, and has ordnance and explosives testing facilities?
13. Which club in Division H achieved 'Distinguished' status within the first two months of the Toastmasters New Year?
14. Want to win over an audience? How to improve your presentation skills' is the title of an article published in The Guardian newspaper by which Area 20 Toastmaster?



Elizabeth Jordan

15. Which Area 44 club is located closest to two 812ft long, 180ft wide, and 157ft tall single expanse buildings built for the Imperial Airship Scheme in the 1920s that appear at the beginning of the film Batman The Dark Knight Rises (2012)?

Money Matters

By Les Hodgson, D71 Finance Manager

September renewals are now behind us but it is never too early to think about March 2018.

Due to the type of bank account some clubs have there can be issues when making the subscription payment to TMI.

One solution is to use a prepaid card that is loaded up with \$ and then pay through the TMI site, a few things to look out for if you go for this solution:

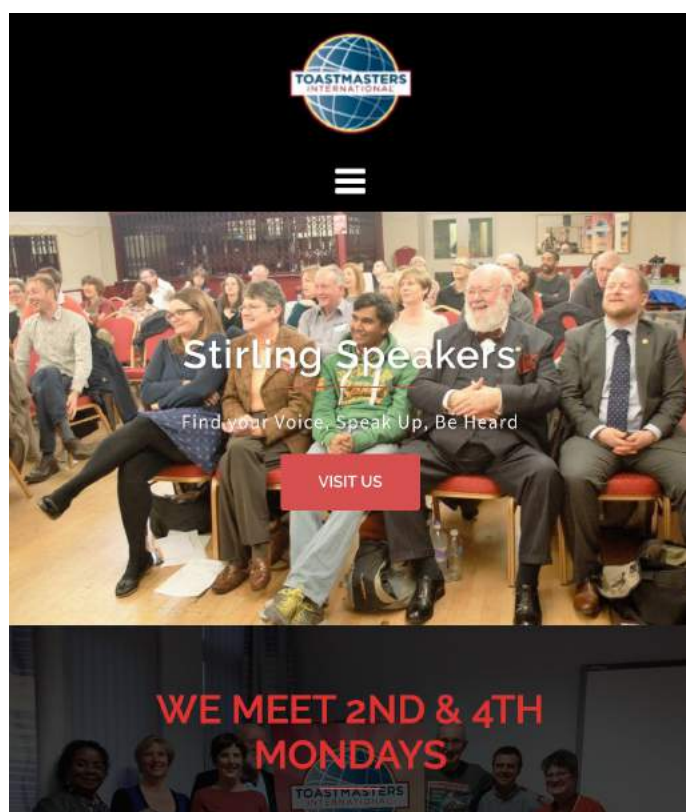
- Get it sorted early.
- Compare the cards available as the fees can vary.

TMI now allow the month to be specified for the starting date for new members. You may like to consider making a rule to start TMI membership from the 1st of the month following joining - a small saving but every penny counts.



DCW – Distinguished Club Website programme

Does your club website help visitors find you? Does it give them all the pertinent info? Does it tell them what to expect? If you think your site 'ticks all the boxes', then consider entering it in the Distinguished Club Website programme. A new initiative this year, it's a 10-point checklist to ensure you cover the most important information.



WELCOME TO EAST HERTS SPEAKERS CLUB

Do you need to deliver a wedding speech or important presentation? Want to improve your interview and networking skills, or be a more confident speaker so that you can persuade, motivate and inspire?

Congratulations to two clubs who have submitted their site and whose sites both fulfil the DCW criteria. Our winners of a set of club ribbons are new club Stirling Speakers (September) <http://stirlingspeakers.co.uk> and East Herts Speakers (October's winners) <https://easthertsspeakers.org/>. Well done!

Think your club website is worthy of recognition? [See all the details on the D71 website by clicking here](#) and get in touch if you want to submit your site. It's really simple – review the criteria to make sure your site's a match, and then just send me an email with DCW + your club name. Good luck!

Laura Bruce
Public Relations Manager

Toasties and Club video!

Check out Salford Speakers video on the [D71 PR Facebook page](#) – they made a short video during a #TravellingToastie visit to Warrington Toastmasters!

Have you made a video at a club meeting? Share it to the [D71 Public Relations Facebook page](#) to spread the word.



Salford Speakers – Travelling



Helping their local club with the autumn speech contest, ten Travelling Toasties from [Bedford Speakers](#) went along to help [Cranfield Speakers](#). Well done team! Vicky Lester Elena Roxana Tudosie Daniel Sandars.



Salford Speakers President: Rumbi Chihoro-Unuas at Parramatta Pioneers Toastmasters, Australia.



Another long-distance traveller: Steven Duckett, Secretary [Salford Speakers](#) at Morris Gellman Toastmasters, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Steven went to Argentina to run a marathon and when he finished as he had still energy on his body, he decided to drop by the local TM club!

Tag your pics #TravellingToastie & share on Facebook!

Travelling Toasties around the District. . . and the world!

Philip O'Brien from Bandon Speakers has been visiting a lot of clubs, well done Phillip! He's setting the pace for the Travelling Toasties this year!



Here's Philip at Bishopstown Toastmasters, with Carol O'Donovan, Secretary of Bishopstown. Here he is at Speakeasy Toastmasters, Mallow with President Helsa Giles...



. . . And Cork Toastmasters. . . with President Joan Donovan.

