

Midland News



INC The District Governor's News Letter

District 105M The International Association of
Lions Clubs

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9005 Pairs of Spectacles in one year



In May's edition of Midland News we highlighted the efforts of Shirley Lions Club with regard to Campaign Sight First II. When we set about achieving our self set target of raising £6,500 for CSFII, the Club was determined that it should not be to the detriment of its regular activities. Since 1998 Lion Eric Morris has been Shirley Club's "Used Spectacles Officer" and has regularly collected about 5,000 pairs of used spectacles every year. Having set the target of £6,500 for CSFII, Lion Eric agreed to match this with a personal target of 6,500 pairs of used spectacles.

As previously reported the £6,500 was achieved and we went on to raise £8,000. To match this Lion Eric not only hit his target of 6,500 spectacles but he went on to collect 9,005 used pairs of spectacles in the one Lionistic year.

We calculate that in the 10 years Lion Eric has been doing this he has collected over 55,000 pairs of spectacles.

We are sure that a great many other Clubs in the District are doing the same but if anyone can beat Lion Eric we should like to hear from you.

P.S. Not content with the spectacles, Lion Eric has now started collecting used hearing aids, again for which there is a huge demand in the third world.

DG s News Letter

Fellow Lions,
This is my last newsletter and Brian Branch's last Midland News as well.

Thank you Brian for accommodating me in the Midland News.

We were told before we took over as District Governors, that the year will pass very soon. How right were they!. It has been a very gratifying year for me and Josh. Both have been very well received by the Clubs at the business and charters. We were made welcome everywhere we visited. I do hope that the friendship developed during this period will continue as family of friends.

I wish to thank all the Cabinet Officers who supported me during my year, increasing net membership to a record around 60, assisting in the Forum, Convention and in the Gala Ball.

As you will be aware we had our first District Gala Ball on 7th June at the Clarendon Suites in Birmingham. There were 274 attending, with representation from 22 clubs.

My heartfelt thanks to those who supported the cause by attending. Everyone who attended thoroughly enjoyed the evening, which was full of fun and fellowship. We raised net amount of just over £11,000, through booklet, gala auction, raffle, and donations on the evening from individuals and Clubs. I believe the money is still flowing in. Bromsgrove Club had agreed to send another cheque of £500, and special thank you to Maureen and Keith Kendell for their generous donation of £2000 towards the Campaign Sight First 11.

I am sure that with the help of the Clubs we will reach over £90,000 this year. It has been a great team effort. I congratulate every Club, and individual member who has worked extremely hard to help us raise such a large sum in a very short period.

It is a pity that the function on 7th June was not attended by many District Officers though the date was fixed in October last year and all the officers informed again by March!

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Aldridge Lions Club Create Three MJ Fellows in one Charter Night



From Left. Lions Harry Fry, Mike Jobbins and George Pagett were all created Melvin Jones Fellows at Aldridge Club's Charter Night

Evesham Vale Lions Club

Howard James achieved his 90th Birthday on 3rd May 2008. To honour this milestone, a dinner was given by his fellow members of Evesham Vale Lions Club at Ecgwins PMC, at which Howard was awarded the Melvin Jones Fellowship—the highest form of recognition in Lions Clubs International for dedication to making our community a better place to live in.

Howard was a Charter Member of the Lions Club when it was formed in 1977, and has been the main-stay of welfare & community projects ever since.

The award was presented by District Governor Lion Suresh Gohil aided by Club President Lion Nino Papandreou.

Commenting, Howard said “the award was totally unexpected and I am honoured to receive it from my friends at Evesham Vale Lions.

A quiz for People Who Know Everything!!

1. Name the one sport in which neither the spectators nor the participants know the score or the leader until the contest ends?
2. What famous North American land mark is constantly moving backwards?
3. Of all vegetables, only two can live to produce on their own for several growing seasons. All other vegetable must be replanted every year. What are the only two perennial vegetables?
4. What fruit has its seeds on the outside?
5. You can buy pear brandy with a real pear inside the bottle. The pear is whole and ripe and the bottle is genuine, it hasn't been cut in any way. How did the pear get inside the bottle?
6. Only three words in standard English begin with "DW" and they are all common words. Can you name two of them?

Message in a Bottle



Lion Martin Wright from Shirley Lions Club was approached for a supply of the Lions Message in a Bottle for an event being organised by the local NHS Care Trust. A box was purchased by the Club to enable a bottle to be given to all of the pensioners attending the event. In addition, a further small supply was given to some organisations who also attended. Some of the spare bottles were eventually seen by a colleague in the Care Trust who thought it would be a good idea to distribute them to everyone over the age of 65 in the area – all 37,000 of them. After a great deal of discussion and persuasion the Care Trust eventually decided to fund the purchase of all 37,000 bottles which are currently being distributed by the combined Lions Clubs in Solihull and so far around 12,000 bottles have been distributed.

I gave a presentation at the launch of Message in a Bottle in Birmingham East & North PCT on Monday with Ian Pudney, MD MiaB Distribution Manager (on left) with Louise Pritchard, Director of Performance and Organisational Development and Steve (?) from the Fire Service. Unlike Solihull, BEN PCT has not asked local Lions to be involved with the distribution but has asked an outside agency to do this and 60,000 bottles will be delivered by 7th July. This is in addition to the 37,000 being distributed by Lions in Solihull.

With the enthusiasm this generated thoughts turned to neighbouring PCT areas and a visit was organised to give a presentation to the Emergency Health committee in neighbouring Birmingham East & North. Before the meeting, it was thought that a lot of persuasion would be needed to extract funds from the NHS for a second time. The Chairperson was undecided but consulted the other members of the committee for their views. This was incredibly positive with glowing testimonies from various quarters who had seen MiaB in operation combined with the anticipation of the benefits MiaB would give in the event of a flu pandemic. This made the take up of the Lions scheme the only real option and an order for a further 65,500 bottles was eventually submitted although the Lions were not needed to help in their distribution.

Lion Martin Wright

Answers

6. The three words beginning with "DW" are DWARF, DWELL and DWINDLE

5. How did the pear get inside the bottle? It grew inside the bottle. (The bottles are placed over pear buds when they are small and are wired in place on the tree. The bottle is left in place for the entire growing season. When the pears are ripe, they are snipped off at the stem.

4. The fruit with seeds on the outside is the STRAWBERRY

3. The two vegetable that can live to produce for several growing seasons are ASPARAGUS & RHUBARB

2 North American landmark constantly moving backward millions of gallons of water rushing over it every minute.) NIAGARA FALLS (The rim is worn down by about two and a half feet

1. The one sport in which neither the spectators nor the participants know the score or the leader until the contest is over is BOXING



More DGs News



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Congratulations to Bushby Club for sponsoring the New Thurnby Club with 21 members. It started as branch club with 8 members in March .
The actual formation will take place once the charter has been received from Oak Brook. Hopefully this will bring a net increase to around 60. Thank you MERL committee for the excellent work input into membership drive. Thanks to the Region and Zone chairman who are the pillars.

I attended the Bushby changeover on 18th June when 2 new members were inducted, followed by a visit to Bilston and Willenhall on 19th June.

The charters for Rugby Rokeby were on 20th June, followed on 21st by Birmingham Ladies and Handsworth Club.

I am flying to Bangkok to support our new DG Andy Pemberton, and Anne. Josh and I will then spend some 5 nights on the wonderful Anantara resort returning on 4th July.

District twinning will take place in Bangkok in presence of our international President Mahendra Amarasuriya, with Dist 306 C2 I Sri Lanka, and Dist 324 in Cheenai.

I am positive that this will be another dimension into Lionism in our District.

I wish Andy every success for the new Lionistic year, and finish by quoting:-

Happiness is a perfume you cannot pour on without getting a few drops on yourself.



Ex Leo Anaja Gohil receives MJF from PID Jay



Lion Mahesh presents cheque for £568 to DG Suresh for Campaign SF11



Lion Shabir presents cheque for £560 to DG Suresh for Campaign SF11



Lion David Cox receiving a Certificate of Appreciation



PID Jay & SDG Suresh sharing gifts



Lion president Sheila Dale presents Young Ambassador Richard Costello with his cheque for £500