

MIDLAND NEWS



District 105M The International Association of
Lions Clubs

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Warwick Lions Club Door to Door Tinned Food Collection



Warwick Lions Club are grateful to the people of Warwick who donated tins of food, cash or their time to the Clubs door to door collection on Sunday December 10th and also for cash given at collections at Tesco, Emscote and Sainsburys on December 1st and 2nd.

The food was taken to Coten End Youth Centre where the items were sorted and counted. £400 worth of small Lions iced Christmas cakes & packets of tea were added. 204 food parcels of 20

items were made up and delivered on the same day.

On Thursday 21st December Warwick Lions will buy a Christmas meal and a small Lions iced Christmas cake for everyone receiving Warwick Meals on Wheels and help to deliver them.

On Saturday December 23rd record numbers are expected for carols at Warwick Castle.

The event is organised jointly by Lions, the Rotary Club and Friends of St Mary's Church.

Lion Charles King-Smith

News in brief

MD Leadership Institute 2007

The 5th MD Institute will be held at the Apollo Hotel Edgbaston, Birmingham from 18th to 21st January 2007.

Full details are printed in the DG December News Letter

Lions Photographic Competition

There is to be a photographic Competition this year. Starting at District level and the winners of all five Categories will go forward to Multi District Level.

The Categories are :- Landscape (Urban or Natural). Animal Life, Plant Life, Weather Phenomena and Serving our Environment.

Each entry should have a title plus 25 words explaining how the subject portrayed could be preserved, protected or enhanced. The ultimate winner has to be with International HQ before 1st March 2007, therefore entries should be with Lion Maxine by the third week of January.

Nominations for DG and Vice DG

Nominee for DG 2007-8 is Lion Suresh Gohil.

Nominations for Vice DG are Lion Andy Pemberton
Lion Femi Onabolu.

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Lion Suresh Gohil: BSc, ACII, MCFI
Past President Bushby Lions Club
Candidate for District Governor: 105M
Fiscal Year 2007-2008



Lion Suresh has been a member of the Association of the Lions Club International for 18 years. He has served as Club President, Zone Chairman, District International Relations Chairman, and Financial Advisor to the District in the past.

In his year as the Club President, Bushby Lions Club hosted a very successful District Convention. He was presented with the District Governor's appreciation award. At club level, Suresh has served in every committee.

Lion Suresh has no difficulties in mixing with people from any walk of life. He can invariably be seen clearing up after social, welfare or fundraising events, or comfortably mingling with International and Civic dignitaries anywhere.

At present, Lion Suresh is Vice District Governor, chairman of the Finance & Administrative committee, Chairman of the Forward Planning Committee. In addition to the busy schedule, he has also undertaken to be a group coordinator for Campaign Sightfirst II, making successful presentation for the eye sight campaign in the district.

He has attended 2 International Conventions, 2 Europa Forums, and several Multiple and District conventions. He always has, at his heart, the welfare of the young children, the youth, and the elderly whose community has not been able to care for them. Over the 18 years, he has been involved in many local, national and international projects.

He developed a partnership between Bushby Club and British Children Society to help take destitute children off the streets in this country as well as overseas. He supported flood relief work in this country in 2000. He set up education programme between Bushby club and schools in Zambia, and Orissa for children, who otherwise would have remained illiterate due to lack of funding and other facilities. At present he has instigated building of a school in Orissa for adivasi children living in the jungle. The project has 225 children.

He organised medical supplies at short notice to flood affected areas overseas, and organised shipment of equipment to hospitals in Uganda and India. He also obtained supply of 3000 shorts for distribution to children in Orissa, and Haridwar in India.

He is involved in the ongoing Bushby project of the ABLE Hospital, and the Tsunami project in Sri Lanka. He gave the club the Model club status by donating \$10,000 towards the Campaign Sightfirst II Appeal.

As a District Officer, he enhanced international relations by twinning with five overseas Clubs. As Zone Chairman, he brought Clubs closer, building better fellowship, increasing attendance at meetings during his term. He has contributed to the District membership by introducing 17 new members- 7 at the inception of Bushby Lions Club and 10 in the last 6 years. Lion Suresh has just received International Presidents Award for membership growth. He also formed Bushby Leo Club.

He is a **Melvin Jones Fellow**. He has received many awards for distinguished and dedicated service to lionism. He is a keen sportsman. Suresh is an Independent Financial Advisor, a Chartered Insurance Practitioner by profession. Suresh has extensive management and leadership experience through his business, and associations with Kriya Yoga, Healing and Free Masonry. He is also a Reiki Master and Vortex Healer. He has been Worshipful Master in 3 Orders of Masonic Lodge. Suresh has two grown up children, who are both in highly successful professions, leaving Suresh with plenty of time to devote to **lionism**.

The President and members of Bushby Lions Club are very proud to nominate Vice District Governor Lion Suresh for position of District Governor 105M for coming year.



**Lion Andy Pemberton
Candidate for Vice District Governor 105M
2007-2008**

Lion Andy was born in Birmingham, educated in Smethwick and lived in West Bromwich until 1980 when he moved to Balsall Common

Lion Andy is married to Ann who supports him in all his Lions work. He has two children Claire and Lucy, both now married and living in Doncaster and Aberdeen respectively. Claire recently presented Andy with his first grandchild

Lion Andy's professional career began in Chartered Accountancy. He qualified as a Chartered Accountant and worked in the accountancy profession 1966 /1980 with one of the top 3 firms.

Since 1980 Lion Andy has worked for Peugeot Motor Company in Coventry, including two years secondment to Paris. Within Peugeot Lion Andy has held a number of senior positions in all facets of the business. An important skill has always involved working with significant numbers of people and Dealers ensuring, they are properly organised and communicated with, throughout the country.

Lion Andy has been a member of Lions since 1982 when he joined Balsall Common Lions Club. For the last 25 years, except when working in France, Lion Andy has actively involved himself in the running of Balsall Common Lions Club:-

- President twice
- Treasurer 3 times
- Fund Raising Chairman 5 times
- Fellowship chairman once
- Welfare chairman once
- Membership Secretary twice

Lion Andy became involved in District affairs when he was appointed Zone Membership officer for 2001/2002 and 2002/2003. For this work he received a District Governor's Appreciation Award.

He was elected as Zone Chairman (Zone D) for 2003/2004

He was appointed Regional Chairman (Region 2) 2004/2005 and 2005/2006

Currently he is Chairman of Health and Environment Committee as well as the Environment Officer 2006/2007

Family, Work and Lions leave Andy with little free time except to act as Treasurer for Stoneleigh Cricket Club, and in pursuing a hopeless belief that Birmingham City will one day win something.

The Members of Balsall Common Lions Club are proud to nominate Lion Andy Pemberton for the position of Vice District Governor 105M 2007-2008.

Lion Emmanuel Femi Onabolu (mjf)

Profile In Lionism



Femi was born in Nigeria on the 24th March 1940.

Completing his Primary and Secondary education in Lagos, Nigeria, Femi proceeded to study in University of Manchester, England, (1962), Pandeos University of Political Science & Public Administration, Athens, & University of Athens, Greece (67-71). A Lecturer of International Law for a brief spell before becoming a self-employed business entrepreneur in Greece. In 1981 he returned to Nigeria with his Greek wife Anna.

Lion Femi settled in Business in Kaduna, Northern Nigeria and joined Kaduna Lions Club in 1983. He was very active at Club, District 404, Afro-South West Asian Forum and International Levels. He served in many Club and District positions that included President, Zone and Region Chairman, and District Chairmanship of Sight First, Leo, International and Long Range Planning Committees, Sergeant-at Arms, and for 4 years (1994-98) before settling in England, the Chairman Publicity & PR Committee for the US \$2.1 million Sight First River Blindness Grant project in Nigeria. He was District Governor's representative for Northern Nigeria and member of the District Projects and Joint Management and Review Committees.

Femi won District 404 "Lion of the Year" awards for unprecedented 3 times in 10 years, during which period he assisted in the formation of 8 Lions Clubs and 6 Leo Clubs in District 404.

Femi moved to Sutton Coldfield, England with his family in 1996 where his wife Anna is a Medical General Practitioner. They have four grown up children. While shuttling between Nigeria and England, he attended meetings of Sutton Coldfield Lions Club, to which he transferred his membership in May 1998. At Club level, Femi served as President of Sutton Coldfield Lions Club and in various other posts including Club Treasurer after joining Castle Bromwich & District Lions Club in 2003.

Femi was co-opted into District 105M Cabinet in 1999 serving as Officer for Water Aid and Street Children under DG Jim Rowley and again in 2004-2005. He has also served every year on the District Cabinet as Sight Conservation and Lions Eye Health Programme officer (2000-2002), Chairman Health & Environment Committee (2002-2003), Chairman International Committee (2004-2005) & (2006-2007), and Zone D Chairman (2005-2006)

Femi helped in forming Birmingham Erdington Lions Club in 2000 and also formed Birmingham Edgbaston Lions Club in 2002.

Femi has attended 5 International Conventions, one Afro- South West Asian Forum, 4 Europa Forums, all but one MD 105 Conventions since 1999 and every District 105M Convention since 1999. Femi was sponsored by LCIF for Leadership training programmes in Cameroon (1992) and Kenya (1994) and visited Oakbrook twice - in 1994 and 1996.

For his Services to Lionism, Femi has won too many Clubs', District, MD and International Awards to enumerate. Notable among these, are:

- Melvin Jones Fellowship 1994
- Prof. G. Grimaldi's International President's Award for Services to Campaign Sight First programme in Dist. 404 Nigeria (1995)
- LCIF Certificate of Appreciation for Services to Campaign Sight First in Nigeria (1998)
- DG Jim Rowley's 105M Certificate of Appreciation (2000)
- DG Ajeet Gill's 105M Appreciation Medal (2001)
- Dr. Jean Behar's International President Medal of Appreciation (2001)
- J. Frank Moore III's International President Certificate of Appreciation (2002)
- DG Harry Hunjan 105M Medal of Appreciation (2003)
- Kay Fukushima's International President Certificate of Appreciation (2004)
- International President's "Impact Leadership" Certificate for 105M (2004)
- Clement Kusiak's Int. President Certificate for sponsorship of New Lions in 2004 & 2005
- LCI Grand Master (Membership) Key Award for sponsorship of 30+ Lions in MD105 (2005)

Apart from his humanitarian services in Lions, Femi takes time to serve his community in other ways as School Governor, member of Sutton Local Community Affairs and also plays leadership roles in Nigerian Welfare and African Communities organisations in the West Midlands.

Castle Bromwich Lions Club has great pleasure in nominating Femi Onabolu for Vice Governor of District 105 M. He is a very dedicated and enthusiastic Lion with immense experience, and leadership qualities.

Update from Bushby Lions Club

Following the Tsunami disaster on Boxing Day 2004, Bushby Lions committed themselves to help to re-house some of the victims in Sri Lanka. Although land was allocated for this purpose in February 2005, it took Bushby Lions almost 15 months to get possession of the plot from the Sri Lankan Government and a further three months to get permission to clear it and start work on it.



The Damage – December 2004

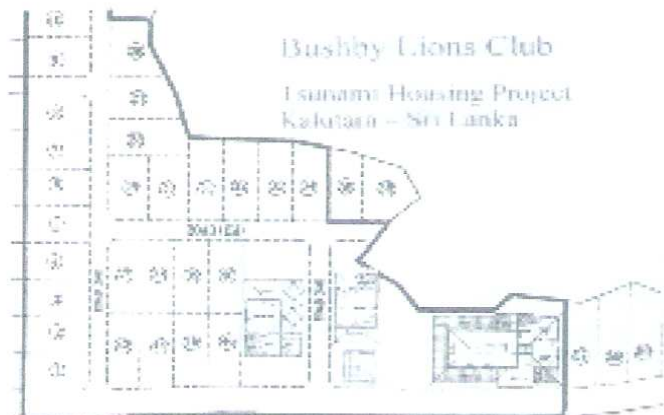


Unhygienic living conditions as at 25 March 2006

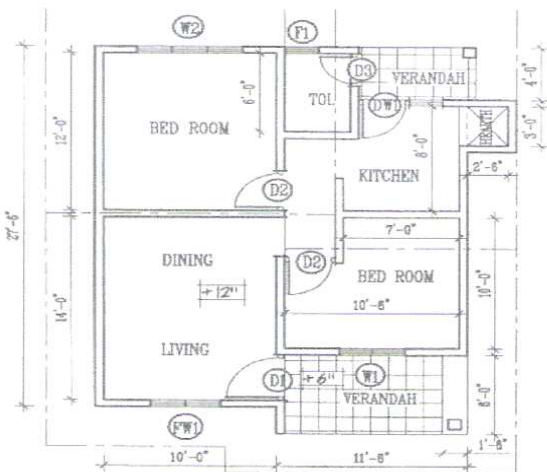
By May 2006 many victims were still living in unhygienic conditions in temporary shelters that had no clean running water, electricity, sewage or drainage system. This made Bushby Lions even more determined to try and bring quality of life to as many people as possible with the fund raising capability of its 19 members.

Bushby Lions decided to build a village of 29 houses complete with a Community Centre, Health Clinic, Mini Market, Sub Post Office, Library and a place of worship as shown in the layout on the right. Obviously this meant the budget would go up from about £55,000 for the initial 15 houses to almost £117,000 for this much bigger project.

Within a few months the Club raised £52,336 through various fund raising activities including sponsorship from several Lions Clubs, local radio station Sabras, and individual and corporate donors. Formula One racing champion Michael Schumacher's contribution was a great boost and gave Bushby Lions a lot of encouragement.



Layout of the proposed Village



Plan of the House



The completed house looks like this

Each house comprises of two bedrooms, living/dining area, a kitchen, toilet, shower and two verandah areas. Electricity and water supply connections are included. The total cost is £3,500 per house. **Not a penny of donations is used for administration costs.** Members pay these costs out of their annual subscription.

We still need £64600 to complete the project. If you would like to donate (No amount is too small) please contact Lion Ajeet Gill



With the number of airline disasters lately, the Civil Aviation Authority now sends an inspector to the North Pole to check out Santa Claus's sleigh before allowing him to fly on Christmas eve. The inspector arrives and checks the reindeer and they look good, he checks the harness and it looks okay, he checks the sleigh and it is also okay. Then he says, "Santa, lets take it up for a check ride and if everything looks good I'll certify you to fly." Santa hitches the reindeer up and taxis onto the runway and just as he's starting his takeoff roll he looks over and notices the inspector has a pump action shotgun on his lap. "Hey! What's the shotgun for!?" Santa yells. The inspector says, "Well, Santa, I'm really not supposed to tell you this, but there is going to be an engine failure on takeoff."

Santa was very cross. It was Christmas Eve and NOTHING was going right. Mrs. Claus had burned all the cakes. The elves were complaining about not getting paid for the overtime they had while making the toys. The reindeer had been playing their reindeer games all afternoon and were dead tired. To make matters worse, Rudolph had taken the sleigh out for a spin earlier in the day and had crashed it into a tree. Santa was furious. "I can't believe it! I've got to deliver millions of presents all over the world in just a few hours

and all of my reindeer are sleeping, the elves are on strike and I don't even have a Christmas tree yet! I sent that stupid Little Angel out HOURS ago to find a tree and he isn't even back yet! What am I going to do?" Just then, the Little Angel opened the front door and stepped in from the snowy night, dragging a Christmas tree. He says, "Yo, fat Santa man! Where do you want me to stick the tree this year?"

And thus the tradition of angels on top of the Christmas trees came to pass...



Hinckley & Burbage Lions Club

26th Midlands Sports Championships for the Disabled

Hinckley & Burbage Lions Club staged the 26th Midlands Sports Championships for the Disabled at Hinckley Leisure Centre over the weekend of Saturday / Sunday 7th / 8th October.

Competitors from across the county were welcomed to the games by Lion President Andy Loomans and to the town by the Worshipful the Mayor of Hinckley & Bosworth Council Mrs Mary Sherwin.

The games being declared officially open by District Governor Lion Mavis Cooke.

Sporting prowess was put to the test in the swimming pool and games hall. Competitors took part in table tennis, bowls, draughts, dominoes, curling and a variety of other games.

ITV Central News included the games



The Mayor presents an award to Iris Bingham (Iris is the World Cross-Bow Champion)

in their Sunday news programme
The games ended Sunday with the

It's A Cracker

- Q. How do you make an apple puff?
A. Chase it around the garden
- Q. What did the Lion say when he saw two hunters in a jeep?
A. Ah, meals on wheels
- Q. What goes into the water pink and comes out blue?
A. A swimmer on a cold day.
- Q. What do you call a mischievous egg?
A. A practical yoker.