



# MIDLANDS NEWS

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Blog: <http://midlandnews105m.wordpress.com>

## January 2015

Lions International, the worlds largest service organisation, and as we all know, something of an unknown between the Rotary and the Masons. How is it that our eglatarian organisation, which welcomes people fom all backgrounds and sexes, is so unknown? We can only blame ourselves. Unlike some other famous and respected organisations, we have members of both sexes. Female Presidents and district governors do not make anybody look twice. If I look around on our cabinet meetings I can only feel humble seeing our lady Lions bringing so much to the organisation. It is important we tell the world what we do, how we do it and with whom. If we can get the word out that we are so multi cultural, welcome both sexes and all ages, we should be getting the credit we are due. So forward this newsletter to your friends and family. Let them know what we do and perhaps it entices someone else to join this great organisation.



This month we lost a very active Lion, our dear friend Pauline Hoogerwerf. We can not let our friends who have done so much for society as a whole, leave us without celebrating their contribution. They have given selflessly to good causes here and far away. So please, if one of your members passes away, feel free to send an obituary.

If members want to advertise, for only £10, we can place small advertisements. All funds raised for the district charity account. Over 1,000 lions will see your advert. An excellent place to advertise your holiday home, camper, old bike etc. Please contact us for details.

Last but not least, please send reports, news about forthcoming events, charter dates, newspaper clippings and anything else you think we should know about.



### In Memoriam Pauline Hoogerwerf by PDG Simon Moss

Pauline Hoogerwerf was born in 1949 in Derby. She married Wim and moved with him to Marston Green where he became a charter member of Marston Green and District Lions Club. Pauline ran a shop in the village before going to work at Lions MDHQ. In 1994 Pauline joined the club and was president twice, secretary several times as well as being fund raising chairman and PR officer. She and Wim have lately been working with a local academy inspiring young people to take part in the young leaders in service project and finding two district young ambassador winners.

At district level Pauline was North Sea Lions officer during which time she ran a project to establish ten wells in Niger and ten years later, as Water Projects Officer, she raised £20,000 to make repairs to the same wells.



In recognition of her work the district presented her with a Melvin Jones Fellowship in 2013. Pauline also served the last three district governors as district secretary, a job she was exceptionally good at.

Apart from her excellent work as a lion, Pauline will be remembered for living life to the full. She was a member of belly dancing troupe Ashiki, ran the Run for Life several times and really enjoyed a party especially if there was dancing.

Pauline was a remarkable woman who will be greatly missed by her family and friends and her passing is a great loss to Lions.

## North Sea Lions 2014/2015



Because an earlier project was cancelled we received a refund of the contribution made for that project. At the NSL Board Meeting in September 2014 it was decided to have two projects for 2014/15, one to utilise the refund and the second to utilise the 2013/14 contributions.

Unfortunately only 19 Clubs contributed in 2013/14 and we therefore do not yet have the funds for both projects. I would now appeal to those Clubs who did not make a contribution in 2013/14 to do so now. For all Clubs I would ask if you could consider making your 2014/15 contribution now.

A brief summary of the 2014/15 projects is below:

Chink academy Kenya: Ajit Virdi: 105E

This is a project to extend an existing school by building extra classrooms above the existing rooms. Additional facilities will be provided at the same time.

The project is underway with adequate supervision in UK and Kenya. The project is estimated for completion in April 2015. The local Mtwapa Lions Cub in Mombasa has made considerable input. This has proved an important both for project and for this local Club.

Funds are required now to ensure completion within the target timetable.

c) Kicukiro Rwanda: Ruurd Kuipers: 110BN

This project is to contribute to the organisation of a Nursery, Primary and Secondary Schools in the Republic of Rwanda.

It is to create and manage an elementary school for the 3 – 12 year olds in the rural area of Kicukiro District by Action Nord-Sud Rwanda (a local NGO)

Kicukiro is one of the three districts of Kigali City; it is composed of both urban and rural zones. In rural areas children have difficulty to access school due to distance they have to travel every day, especially when it rains. This project aims to prevent some pupils missing school in the Gahanga sector, Kapasa Cell, Nyacyonga and Kabeza villages.

At this moment a Dutch club has paid to buy the ground. Contact has been made with people who have contact with a Dutch NGO who will work together and will supervise the building. A Dutch Lion is also a Lion in Kigali lions club and is a common contact

Funds for this project are required now in order for it to complete on time.

John Bush

[nsi@lions105m.org.uk](mailto:nsi@lions105m.org.uk)

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## Diabetes



You may have heard or seen the recent media reports that NICE (the National Institute for clinical excellence) are now advocating surgery for people with Type 2 diabetes.

Until now it has only been recommended as a last resort, a desperate measure to treat those whose health is severely threatened by their obesity.

The new guidelines could result in an extra 2,000,000 (yes I have got the correct number of 0's) people being eligible for this treatment, any patient with a BMI of over 30 alongside a recent diagnosis of Type 2

qualifies for this weight loss surgery.

I am sure that by now some of you are fed up with my regular emails about diabetes but perhaps this news will serve to highlight to you the severity of type 2 and how concerned the health care professionals are why we, as Lions, with our longstanding commitment to the condition, should be actively promoting diabetes awareness as part of our service within the community.

Barbara Dutton Diabetes officer 105m [barbaramdutton@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:barbaramdutton@hotmail.co.uk)

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## District Water Project/Street Children

1. New Water Project – Water Supply and Green Houses in Bungoma County, Kenya for Widows and Orphans

I am pleased to advise you that Cabinet at their November Meeting approved a new District 105M Water Project, for you to support.

Although not strictly a water project alone, the project cannot operate without the supply of piped water from a nearby reservoir which forms a major part of the cost.

The Lion's Club of Kakameja will manage this project which will be overseen by Club Member, PCC Rajinder Sembi who is also GMT leader for MD411. The Club will be able to construct and oversee the management of greenhouse farming, identify viable crops for widows and orphans to plant, cultivate and sell at market.

This Project cannot take place without a constant water supply and serves three main objectives:

- a) It provides work and a regular source of income for widows and orphans
- b) It provides a means of support for education of orphans and single mother families
- c) It guarantees supply of water both for irrigation and home consumption, but essentially will enable the Green House Project to succeed.

## 2. Street Children

The 12 April has been designated 'Lions International Day for The Street Child'. Clubs are asked to prepare and support this day each year at a time of greater awareness of issues facing far too many children. Material is available from Railway Children the charity supported by our District.

Carole Moseley  
District Water Project/Street Children's Officer  
[wpasc@lions105m.org.uk](mailto:wpasc@lions105m.org.uk)

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### District 105M Final of the Young Ambassador of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

After months of preparation the Final's day dawned. There were four Candidates sponsored by Clubs throughout the District, each young person worthy of success, but there could be only one winner.

The District Final was held at St John's Hotel Solihull on Sunday 30th November 2014. Each candidate had prepared for their interview and had worked hard with their sponsors to get their technique just right.

The four candidates were Leticia Salmon sponsored by Shirley Lions; Sam Evans sponsored by Shakespeare Lions; Phoebe Knowles sponsored by Castle Bromwich Lions and Jessica Goulden sponsored by Dudley Lions. Each candidate was accompanied by family members and supporters and members of their Lion's Club.

They were interviewed by three judges - Chris Parry a Head of Sixth Form at a local Secondary School and lead judge; two new judges joined Chris this year, Amy Lloyd also in Education and Chris Train the Business judge working at The National Grid.

Upon arrival the Candidates drew lots to see in which order they would be interviewed with Sam going in first, Jessica second, Phoebe in third and then Leticia.

This year I was thrilled to have a previous Young Ambassador helping out. Liam Barrett, of Marston Green Lions, came and did a first aid course with finalists and supporters, teaching us the basics of how to help if you see someone in distress, I will remember DRS ABC, and have the Certificate to prove it. This was a welcome distraction whilst the interviews were going on.

Each candidate had to do a three minute presentation about themselves and their project; they then faced twenty minutes of questions from the judges. As the organiser of the event I was very relieved that all went to time. At the end of the interviews, Members of the Cabinet were invited in to hear the four young people give their three minute presentation to the audience, it was very inspiring.

Following a well earned lunch the presentations were made by District Governor Ian to the winner, our lead judge said that this year had been an extremely close run contest between all of the candidates, but eventually they had decided upon Jessica Goulden, sponsored by Dudley Lions.



Jessica is 16 years old and attends Cardinal Griffith Catholic College, where she is doing her GCSE's. She wants to set up grief councillors within school to cope with the trauma of bereavement in young, school age children. Her idea is to spread the ability to council young people within her own school and then for this to become a lasting legacy within other schools.

Jessica has already raised a staggering £18,000 to help St Giles Hospice, by barn dancing and bungee jumping amongst other things. She loves to keep fit and is an avid runner, she is just starting her D of E and is very enthusiastic about getting involved with this.

So as you can see Jessica is a very busy young lady. I am sure she will represent our District brilliantly in the MD Final in February 2015 in Dudley. All Lions are invited to attend the Award Ceremony on Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2015 at The Village Hotel, Dudley. All Lions are invited to come along to the Final.

For further information about the Young Ambassador Competition and how your club can get involved contact: Cath Kendall Young Ambassador District Officer.

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### Balsall Common Lions at Mad Hatters Tea Party



Balsall Common Lions had a great day out today helping out with others at The Mad Hatters Tea Party (Children's Charity). The Charity aims to give sick, disabled and disadvantaged children in the Midlands exciting days out to remember.



This time over 340 children from 18 Schools, together with their Teachers, Carers and helpers went to see Father Christmas at Dudley Zoo and Castle.

The children all received a gift from Santa, were entertained with a show from Flip The Clown and then enjoyed lunch before they went home.

### A Night of Black Country Humour



Balsall Common Lions Club presented an evening with the ever popular Black Country vocal duo, husband and wife team Dandy, who played to yet another packed house at St Peters Church Hall and delighted the audience with their unique style of Black Country humour and songs. On the night we also held a raffle aid of the Lions Ebola Appeal which raised £323.

As always a big Thank You to Dandy and to everyone who came along and supported us to make it such a great evening.

### Santa at Berkswell School Christmas Fayre



Santa enjoyed seeing lots of children in his Grotto at Berkswell School Christmas Fayre.

He would like to see even more of you when he starts his sleigh run this Saturday.

Look out for when he is coming down your street and come out and say hello and join in the festive fun.

## Lions Bingo



Balsall Common Lions hold fortnightly Bingo sessions, and it was 'Eyes Down' for the last time this year at the Bingo at Balsall Common Village Hall. A record attendance enjoyed the fun at our Festive Bingo & Raffle with mince pies during the break, hosted this time by Emma our popular Bingo caller.

Olive this time won the Christmas Hamper but the Snowball of £50 was unclaimed and rolls on now till January.

These evenings are open to anyone who would like to join in, so come along and enjoy an evening of fun and friendship. Everyone will be welcome.

See you all next on 9th January 2015

## Christmas in Balsall Common

Santa had another busy and successful year again visiting over 3,000 homes over eight nights, covering a distance of almost 30 miles.

He was also present in the Village over two mornings, visited the lovely Residents at Barchester Homes and this year for the first time went to The George in The Tree to see everyone there at breakfast.

We had great fun doing it all and our Thanks must go to the people who helped us make all this happen.

To Unity Automotive, Carstins for supplying the vehicle to tow Santa with Rudolph and the other Reindeer: to our Helpers who came out to help us collect, the Balsall & Berkswell Hornets FC, Balsall Common (2nd Methodist) Scouts, Berkswell & Balsall Common Rugby Club, Berkswell Cricket Club, all our other volunteers and our good friends the Loeftic Lions.

Our biggest thanks must go to the residents of Balsall Common and the local area, who have made it all worthwhile with their kind generosity, coming out to see us and say hello, to make it a truly enjoyable and festive occasion.

See you all again in 2015!



## Kettering & District Lions



Our Annual Children's Party was held recently. The children enjoyed an afternoon of music, games & a tea. The Deputy Mayor paid us a visit & brought Santa with him.

Here is a picture of one of our guests, Lilian, meeting Santa & receiving her present.

## Shirley Lions

### Harvest Festival



Each autumn the children of Cranmore Junior School in Shirley hold a Harvest Festival collection. The food is then passed on to Shirley Lions to use as we see fit. Some of it is used to make up hampers to give as prizes in the bingo and raffle that takes place at our Pensioner's Party in the New Year whilst the remainder is donated on to St Basil's charity for the homeless. When we visited them in December to hand over the goods, preparations were in full swing for their big sleep out when staff and supporters sleep out on the streets at Christmas with the local homeless. Makes you realise how lucky we all are as we enjoy Christmas in the comfort of our homes with our families around us.

### Santa in Shirley



Another year over and another successful sleigh collection for Shirley Lions.

Once again our local Honda dealership provided us with a reindeer themed CRV to pull the sleigh and when our trusty generator which powers the music and lights gave up the ghost on our first evening out, the local HSS Hire came up with a brand new generator for us to use.

Despite atrocious weather some evenings the children of Shirley were waiting each evening as the sleigh toured the streets.

Traditionally Santa hands out lollies as he does his rounds and we calculate that this year some 2,200 lollies were given out! Oh and £6,500 was collected by his helpers.

In addition to Honda and HSS our thanks go to residents of Shirley for their generosity and to Knowle & Dorridge Lions who assisted us.

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## Wellingborough & District Lions Club.



Our annual door to door collections in December brought in a substantial amount of food and cash for the Christmas parcel appeal. We delivered 86 parcels to those individuals in need and 11 family hampers to those less fortunate with children. After making up the parcels we delivered the remainder of the food to the Wellingborough Daylight Centre for the local food bank. Taking into account the number of times the food was handled we moved around 5 tonnes of food!



Our annual Christmas chocolates tombola stand was held in the Swansgate Centre in Wellingborough on Saturday 20th December 2014. We had a special visitor this year - our Lion, who was kept very busy posing for photos with the children.

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## Knowle and Dorridge Lions

### Sun brings out charity walkers



**Lion Chris explains the routes to walkers**

Sunny skies greeted almost 1800 walkers who ignored the early morning frost for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Lions Festive Walk at Baddesley Clinton last Sunday. "After the snow on Boxing Day and threats for more we were delighted to have sunny skies yet again to help warm up our frozen walkers," said Lions organiser Ute Smith. "It's tremendous the way this annual charity event has become so popular with friends and relatives filling their cars to walk off the Christmas pud every year. It seems word of mouth is proving the most effective publicity. Once again people were extremely generous with the Lions receiving almost £9,000 on the day for their nominated charities – Solihull Young Carers,

Arthritis Research UK, Knowle Football Club and local causes.

"It was a real challenge to park over 400 cars, but the frozen field provided a worthy overflow to the National Trust car parks" said Ute. "So to all the walkers, we thank you once again for your continued support and hope to see you again next year".

Anyone who missed the walks for whatever reason may download the map of the routes from [www.knowleanddorridgelions.com/walk](http://www.knowleanddorridgelions.com/walk) and tackle them at their convenience



**Early walkers head off past Baddesley Clinton House**

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## DROITWICH LIONS CLUB

Are pleased to announce that they have hired the Norbury Theatre in Droitwich for a special performance of The Norbury Players' 2015 pantomime:

### " Sleeping Beauty "

*By Julie Petrucci and Chris Shinn  
By arrangement with Lazy Bee Scripts*

We have 176 seats available at the special price of only £3 each (normally £10)  
For one night only.

This is a special concession by Droitwich Lions & The Norbury Players  
for disadvantaged youngsters and the elderly or disabled.

The performance is at 7:30pm Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2015

At The Norbury Theatre, Friar Street, Droitwich.

*WR9 8ED*

There is ample car parking opposite the theatre, off The Saltway  
(parking is free after 6:00pm)

If you or your club would like to take advantage of this special offer, please contact ASAP: Lion Dave  
Jepson of Droitwich Lions Club

Tel. 01527 821019 or email: [jeppo179@hotmail.com](mailto:jeppo179@hotmail.com)

First come, first served!

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### Droitwich Lions Club

Get the New Year off to a good start and come and join us for our annual

#### **Burns Night Supper and Quiz**

***Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2015, 7 for 7.30pm prompt start***

at

Gaudet Luce Golf Club

Middle Lane

Droitwich

WR9 7JR

Tickets are £10 per head

Reply to Lion Dave Sherwen

E mail: [dave.sherwen@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:dave.sherwen@tiscali.co.uk)

Mobile: 07803 296011

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## LIONS 105M DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S WIFE'S APPEAL 'THE HOMELESS'

How about joining me for:

MURDER OVER DINNER

FISH N'CHIPS FOLLOWED BY AN ILLUSTRATED TALK BY CANDLELIGHT:

TALES FROM THE FRIGHTFUL CITY: THREE WEST MIDLANDS MURDERS

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2015

7:30pm for 8pm

The Royal British Legion, Windsor Road, Oldbury, West Midlands B68 8NY  
(5 minutes from Junction 2 of the M5 and just 5 minutes off the Wolverhampton Road)

Cost £15 (Raising funds for those much needed items).

Join Dr. Robbie Porter a spine-tingling, white knuckle tour of the dark, seedy, murderous underbelly of  
Worcestershire, Birmingham and the Black Country.

Register latest 10<sup>th</sup> January: [webmaster@lions105m.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@lions105m.org.uk)

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## Master Team 2015

I hope you and all your club members have enjoyed the magnificent summer and are now looking forward to the Christmas festivities.

Just to give you and your members something to look forward to, once the Turkey and Christmas pudding have been eaten and the strains of Auld Lang Syne fade away, our popular **Master Team quiz will be held on Monday 23rd February**. We are delighted to announce that our regular Quiz master Steve Worrell will once again be setting the questions to stimulate those little grey cells. The venue and time are the same as last year, 19:00 for 19:30 start at the Strawberry Bank Hotel, Main Street, Meriden. Profits from the event will be put towards the eye camp programme.

So all you need to do is get a team or teams of 4 from your club members; fill the form in and send it with a cheque for £16 (payable to 'Knowle and Dorridge Lions Club') to me at the address shown below.

Please choose an appropriate team name and remember the maximum number in a team is four. We must make this a condition for the trophy in order to be fair to the other teams. You can always make up another team with members from another Lions club.

Yours in Lionism

Lion Peter Smith  
Master Quiz Organiser

Email: [petersmith28@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:petersmith28@blueyonder.co.uk) Tel: 01564 773118  
28 Moorfield Avenue Knowle Solihull B93 9RA

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### District 105M Convention 20-22 March 2015

#### **Park Inn Radisson-West Bromwich**

Package (2 nights B&B, host night, Saturday Lunch, banquet & ball, Sunday coffee)

£240/couple, £165 Single occupancy

For booking form: [convention@lions105m.org](mailto:convention@lions105m.org)

Friday host night theme: 1970's

Saturday Business session Free of Charge

International guest: Past Int. Director Douglas Alexander from New York

Sunday Morning: stroll through the Sandwell Valley followed by Q&A session

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### Quiz for the DG's Wife's Appeal 'The Homeless' Supporting

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2015

Time: 7:00PM

Cost: £5.00 PER PERSON INCLUDES FOOD

Teams: MAXIMUM OF 6

Venue: EDMUNDS LOUNGE BAR  
EDMUND STREET  
BIRMINGHAM  
B3 2ES

[WWW.EDMUNDSBAR.CO.UK](http://WWW.EDMUNDSBAR.CO.UK)

Raffle: TO BE HELD ON THE NIGHT

To register your team please contact:

Lion President Stewart Sherman, [stewart@chamberlainssurveyors.co.uk](mailto:stewart@chamberlainssurveyors.co.uk)

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## **DISTRICT ACTIVITIES:**

20th – 22nd March 2015 District Convention, Park Inn by Radisson, West Bromwich

8th–10th May 2015 MD Convention, Hilton Birmingham Metropole

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### **Charters**

#### **Kettering and District Lions Club**

President Chris Clark Invites you to the 42nd Anniversary Charter Dinner

On Friday 30th January 2015

A black tie event at Kettering Leisure Centre  
Lakeside Room  
Thurston Drive  
Kettering  
Northants  
NN15 6PB

7.00PM for 7.30PM

Contact:

chriseileenclark@gmail.com or Mrs Chris Clark 78 Belvoir Drive Barton Seagrave Northants NN15 6RB.

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#### **Walsall Lions Club 40<sup>th</sup> Charter Anniversary**

14<sup>th</sup> February 2015

At The County Hotel, Birmingham Road, Walsall

6.45 For 7.15

Look forward to a special meal and entertainment to celebrate our ruby anniversary.

Menu and details to follow from

Linda Wilton, Secretary, Walsall Lions Club

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#### **Bushby Lions Club**

Lion President Dullabhbhai Patel invites  
Fellow Lions and Guests to Bushby Lions  
Charter Anniversary Luncheon

on

SUNDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2015

Venue and menu to follow

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New year in advance

Josh Ramji

Secretary Bushby Lions Club

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## Bromsgrove's 35th Annual Charter

Bromsgrove Lion President Bob Wilkes invites all Lions and their friends to Bromsgrove's 35th Annual Charter. It is being held at the Bromsgrove Hilton on 14th March 2015, starting at 7.00 for 7.30pm and will cost £25 per head.

Further information is available from Lion President Bob Wilkes on 01527 877603 or email [bertiewilkes39@aol.com](mailto:bertiewilkes39@aol.com). - More details on the web in the near future.

## Kingswinford & Stourbridge Lions Club's 40<sup>th</sup> Charter Anniversary Dinner

Lion President Mary Thompson & Members invite you to join them

At The Granary, Shenstone, Kidderminster, DY10 4BS

On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2015

7-00pm for 7-30pm

Contact for details:

Lion Ray Robinson – Secretary:- [ray.robinson164@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:ray.robinson164@blueyonder.co.uk)

Tel:No: 01384 374644

Lion Maureen Whitmore Soc:Sec: [mo.whitmore@virginmedia.com](mailto:mo.whitmore@virginmedia.com)

Tel:No: 01384 374795

Lion Richard Styles [lionrichardstyles@talktalk.net](mailto:lionrichardstyles@talktalk.net)

Tel:No: 01384 565024

### SHIRLEY LIONS

For a number of years now our Charter celebration has been a full weekend away and in a different part of the country each year. Our 2015 Charter will be:

Friday 13th March to Sunday 15th March 2015

Meon Valley Marriott Hotel, Southampton.

Package price for 2 nights B&B plus Banquet & Ball is £105 per person.

For details and registration contact Ken Barker: [barkerken@hotmail.com](mailto:barkerken@hotmail.com)

## In the papers



Father Christmas with Lions president Ute Smith, Tracy Lake from Knowle FC, Barry Noy from Solihull Young Careers and Pam Hill and Dean Chandler from the National Trust are hoping for a bumper turnout at this year's festive walk. 46.014.013.sol.jm1

### Date for the festive diary

WHAT better way to work off the Christmas season's excesses than the annual Lions Festive Walk. Taking place on Sunday, December 28 there will be three walks to choose from - three, seven and nine miles long - and all starting and finishing at Baddesley Clinton National Trust property and taking in the delightful surround countryside - and some of its pubs.

This year's walk will raise funds for Arthritis Research UK, Knowle Football Club, Solihull Young Carers and a variety of other local causes.

"Last year we had a record 1,400 walkers step out in ideal walking conditions to burn off the Christmas calories," said Lions organiser Ute Smith.

"This year we are hoping to attract even more and set a new record by raising £10,000 for these very worthy causes."

Once again the National Trust will open Baddesley Clinton and are offering Festive Walkers free entry to both house and gardens when they finish their walks.

For more details and to download a free registration form visit [www.knowleanddorriddgelions.com/walk](http://www.knowleanddorriddgelions.com/walk) or call 08458 33 58 94.

# Shirley Christmas Lights

## The countdown is on



Left - Ashton Lacombe tells Santa he's been a very good boy. 48.014.002.sol.jm7



The Shirley Town Team - Sandra Grite from ASDA, Gill Phipps from Early Years, Andy Powers from Martin & Co, Indra Collins, manager at Nandos and Bobbie Thomas from Shiley Library turn on this year's lights. 48.014.002.sol.jm5



Left - Children from Haslucks Green Junior School get the festivities under way with some carol singing. 48.014.002.sol.jm1

THE COUNTDOWN to Christmas began in Shirley as townsfolk turned out for the annual lights switch-on.

Carol singing was led by the talented youngsters from Haslucks Green

Junior School before Father Christmas and the local traders who make the lights possible switched on the lights.

Observer photographer Jon Mullis was on-hand to capture these images of the evening.

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# Shirley Christmas Lights

Right - It's all about the children... Iggle Piggle, the Nandos mascot Barci the chicken and a stiltwalking fairy all made for a fun lights switch on in Shirley. 48.014.002.sol.jm10

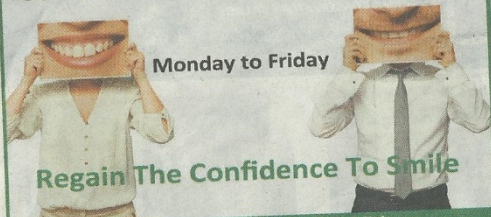
Below right - Sophie Lees and Ken Barker from Shirley Lions collecting for next year's event. 48.014.002.sol.jm8

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www.solihulldentureclinic.co.uk



Super tall fairy Vonnice Knight with little Emily Malone and Solihull Mayor Kate Wild. 48.014.002.sol.jm4



A festive photo for this proud mum... 48.014.002.sol.jm2