

MIDLANDS NEWS Editor Lion Jaap de Jonge news@lions105m.org.uk



Blog: http://midlandnews105m.wordpress.com

March 2015

This months is the District Convention and the youngish club of Sandwell Lions have organised a weekend that looks like it is going to be a great one. So please, try to go there. These conventions are great opportunities to be re-energised. Meeting fellow Lions from other clubs shows you the depth of Lions International.

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.

MD Final Young Ambassador of the 21st Century 2015

The weekend of 20th to 22nd February 2015 saw the MD Final of the Young Ambassador Competition at The Village Hotel, Dudley, West Midlands.

This year only 12 Districts in 105 were represented, by young people between the ages of 15 and 19 doing incredible things within their communities. Unfortunately the candidate from 105SE was unable to attend as he was attending University interviews.



105M was represented by Jessica Goulden, a 16 year old GCSE student,

sponsored by Dudley Lions Club. She enjoys keeping herself fit and going to the gym, this helps her as she is currently taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme which she has just started. Her project focus has been on forming a bereavement support group within the school she attends, this is for young people by young people, she recognised, following the death of her own grandmother, that there was little support for young teenagers following on from deaths of family and friends in the community. With the full backing of

her school she has started to find a way to train a councillor to work within school, this councillor will be a young person themselves, she will be using the £500 to start this process.

GOSE student,

The weekend flew by in a whirl of activity (do these young people never sleep?). The Young Ambassadors arrived on Friday afternoon and quickly got to know each other, by the time they ate their evening meal all were working as a cohesive group. The team building task this year was an old favourite - to construct a free standing tower made from balloons, tallest wins, a very close run contest this year with only a couple of centimetres in it.

Saturday saw the interviews of the twelve candidates by three judges; the judges represent the business community, education and voluntary groups. The group was split into two - morning and afternoon, those to

be interviewed in the afternoon went bowling with Dudley Lions Club in the morning and visa versa, they all had to wrap up well against the snowy blizzards outside, a valiant effort by Dudley Lions.



The evening saw the Gala Dinner, this was once again the best attended Dinner that there had been in the Competition, so there is continued and growing interest within Lions clubs for this event; Lions and supporters came from all over the country. Chair of Council of Governors Mike Phillips and his wife Patricia arrived following their day at the Lionesses Conference in Maidstone, we did not ask him if any speed limits were broken to make it for the start of the Dinner, but make it they did.

At the Dinner the Young Ambassadors provide the entertainment and

this year was no exception, this involved pairs from the audience miming words and a 'take' on Jeremy Kyle with regards to a hamster and the belief in Father Christmas. Everybody had a good laugh to release the tension from the hectic schedule.

Sunday morning came around all too soon, for some, and the formalities began. Each of the Young Ambassadors presented their three minute summary of their projects, the new lead judge, Michelle Crowley, said that this year it had been an extremely difficult decision and the judges had visited and revisited many of the candidates applications before they came to a unanimous decision of the winner.

The Leader of Dudley Council, Councillor Pete Lowe, gave a great speech congratulating each Candidate on their achievements, hoping that they would continue to be different and challenge others to get out there and do something for the community. He concluded by saying in the true words of the Black Country 'they wor bostin'.

Mike Field, the Co-ordinator of the Jubilee Sailing Trust Next Generation Trust, and one of the judges this year, presented the Shipshape Award to James Lingfield, sponsored by Wanstead and Woodford Lions Club. James was the youngest Candidate this year and suffers from Muscular Dystrophy, a well earned award, accompanied by a few tears. As part of this he wins a £500 cheque and a week working on a Tall Ship alongside able bodies and disabled crew. This award provides leadership training to the recipient.



The overall MD Young Ambassador Award was given to Orla Jackman from 105I, sponsored by Carlow Lions Club. She is 17 years old, loves art and sport; a leukaemia survivor, she says she wants to give back to her community in thanks for her life, she raises money for the four hospitals in Ireland that treat childhood cancer and life threatening diseases by doing all sorts of things, over the past four years she has raised 86,000 Euros supported by family and friends. She is only one of six young people on the Health Board in Ireland helping sort out support and delivery of services to these hospitals. As always, when given the award, she said she thought she wouldn't win as there were so many others who were doing wonderful things in their communities.

The Young Ambassador Competition is over for 2015, but the search now starts for the new Young Ambassador for 2016. The 105M District Final will take place on Sunday 22nd November 2015 at St John's Hotel Solihull, I invite all clubs to get out into the communities and look around, there are some fantastic young people out there doing 'amazing things', serving their communities in the way that we, as Lions do, let's give them the recognition they so richly deserve.

Cath Kendall Young Ambassador District Officer youngambassador@lions105m.org.uk

Young Leaders in Service IMPORTANT NEWS ON CHANGES TO REQUESTING CERTIFICATES.

As from **January 2015** Young Leader in Service Certificates will **no longer** be issued by Oakbrook. The new system will simplify the process and certificates should be received by clubs quicker.

With **immediate effect** Clubs will need to <u>send the completed logbooks</u>, <u>Lions Clubs Award Request Form</u> and the YLiS School/Youth Organisation Award CERTIFICATION FORM to their **YLiS District Officer**.

The District Officer will arrange for certificates from the Multiple District Officer. The certificates will be sent directly to the person named on the Lions Clubs Award Request Form.

Please note that any forms received by Oakbrook will be sent back to the UK without being processed. Yours in Lionism

Sally Marsh, MD105 Young Leaders in Service Officer

Balsall Common Lions

An evening with Alan Tumber.



Balsall Common Lions were entertained by Alan Tumber, on a Fellowship evening with humorous songs and poems. Alan is a retired headteacher in Birmingham with over 35 years in Primary Education and has performed in folk clubs and venues around the city for many years, and works under the sobriquet 'Grandadssongs'

His show of unique entertaining gave us an inspiring hour of thought provoking and humorous content built around a theme. Ours was 'Rhyme nor Reason' with comic poetry and songs with

live music, pictures and recordings of the work of Marriott Edgar, Stanley Holloway, Pam Ayres, Les Barker and others supported by a powerpoint presentation.

At that event we took the opportunity to invite along our 'Santa helpers' and also Age UK Solihull for cheque presentations.



Cheque Presentation to Age UK Solihull

Balsall Common Lion President Mark Whitfield was pleased to present a cheque for £1,000 to Lorraine Hart, Fundraising Manager from Age UK Solihull. This was money raised from our successful '100' Club for the 2014 calendar year. The '100 club', which has now been running for 6 years, individuals purchase a number between 1 and 100 each year costing £24, with a chance to win monthly prizes of £50, £20 and £10. In December there is an additional Bonus prize of £100.

Our chosen charity for 2015 is the **Macmillan Cancer Nurses** who serve our area. They specialise in palliative care, providing support and information to people with

cancer, and their families. This is given free of charge and they rely heavily on voluntary contributions.

Cheque Presentation To Santa's Helpers

Lion President Mark Whitfield presented cheques to local organisations in recognition of their help with our Santa Sleigh Run. Those who were able to attend (from right to left) in the picture are:

Lion President Mark Whitfield: Brian Wilson, Coventry Phoenix Lions: Viv Shadbolt, BC Second Methodist Scouts: Lion Marie-Louise Marsden, Fundraising Chairman: Chris Abram, Berkswell & Balsall RFC, and Andy King, Balsall & Berkswell Hornets Football Club.

A donation was also made to Berkswell & Balsall Common Junior Cricket Club.

DG Ian Haffner Visit

We had a visit to our club Meeting by our District Governor lan Haffner and Lion Joy Haffner.



to the community.

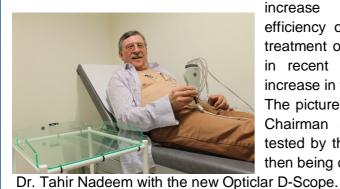
During the Meeting DG Lion Ian Haffner presented to Lion President Mark Whitfield his personal Banner and Badge and he also presented to Lion David Sargent a Certificate and Pin in recognition of him giving 20 year service



Request to fund equipment for BC & Meriden Group Practice

Balsall Common Lions were pleased to be able to help to contribute to a new ECG machine at Balsall Common & Meriden Group Practice. The old one had broken down.

The Practice was also looking for support to purchase an Opticlar D-Scope Head for a WA handle. It will



increase the flexibility and efficiency of the surgery in the treatment of skin cancers, which in recent years has seen an increase in the area.

The picture shows Lions Service Chairman Steve Meakin being tested by the ECG machine and then being checked over by



Finally we handed over a cheque to purchase a Nurse's Trolley for the new Treatment room.



Balsall Common Lions help at out Lunch

Currently, the Lions Clubs of the Midlands are supporting Sifa-Fireside which is a dynamic local charity working to tackle homelessness and alcohol misuse.

They are based in Digbeth, Birmingham and work with people aged 18 and over with no upper age limit. They deal with some of the most vulnerable adults in our society: those experiencing homelessness or who are vulnerably-housed, running a daily 'drop in service' providing free coffee, breakfasts and lunches.

Balsall

Common Lions have already helped both with financial support



and provided second hand clothing and sleeping bags but we were more than happy when we had the opportunity to assist regular volunteers to prepare and serve lunch.



On the day we served a total of 93 people.

Lion President Mark Whitfield commented "He would like to thank Carole Fox, Operations Manager, and to the staff at SIFA Fireside for allowing us to support in our own small way. I was totally impressed with the whole SIFA set up. Barely a detail has been overlooked, and yet they rely, almost entirely, on charitable donations". Sifa-Fireside are continually looking for support in running the Centre.



The Errant Gnomes, from Marston Green & District Lions, again

And the winners are . . .

In a close fought contest this vear the 'Errant Gnomes' clung on to the District MasterTeam Quiz winners shield for another year beating Rugby Rokeby Lions 'O.S.D.' team and Solihull Lions 'A Theory of nothing'. The 2nd and 3rd teams could not be separated by question master Steve Worrell who set a number of eliminator questions to try to pry them apart. In the spirit of Lionism the t eams agreed to

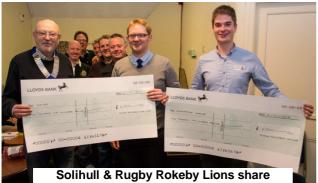


District Governor Ian Haffner presents the winner's trophy to Marston Green's team

share the trophy, and no doubt get the rose organisers Knowle & Dorridge Lions topped up the proceeds from the raffle to pay for 2 Asian Eye Camps. And a good evening was enjoyed by all. With thanks to the new management of the Strawberry Bank Hotel for their hospitality.

Southam Lions

"Over the days leading up to Christmas, Southam Lions were busily collecting money and bringing Father Christmas to the children from all over Southam and the surrounding villages. Literally thousands of bags of



was

runners up rose bowl

chocolate buttons were given to youngsters, and some it has to be said were consumed by ravenous Lions. Father Christmas whose memory never ceases to amaze everyone, promised lots of presents to the children, and the number of drinks and carrots left outside homes on Christmas Eve meant that he slowed up considerably but still managed to get the job done! Well done Santa!!

We are naturally very excited to tell you that £5,000 raised and the two charities benefitting from the

collection were SENSE and The Shakespeare Hospice. At a recent Lions meeting we were happy to present the cheques each for £2,500.

Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who gave so generously.



New Horns for Knowle Fun Run

After many years our committee authorised the purchase of new air horns for our VIP to use to start this year's Fun Run. After scouring the internet we came across a company selling 3 for the price of 2, and whilst technically we only required 1 but never one to pass a bargain we ordered 3. After 10 days nothing had arrived and after enquiry it seemed the courier, to remain nameless but recently privatised, had lost them and the supplier immediately despatched 3 more using a different courier, and both sets arrived within 24 hours of

each other.

Realising they are for a charity fundraising event the supplier told us to keep them should they both turn up. So in the spirit of charity we offered the 3 extras to local Fun Runs inspired by the Knowle Fun Run - the Arden 9, the Blythe Valley 10k organised by Shirley Lions, and the Dorridge Fun Run who we were surprised to learn have never used an air horn to set its riders and walkers on their way.

Good luck to all runners who set off running at the sound of an air horn this year.

Knowle Fun Run gets head start

Thanks to an £800 early donation from Tesco Extra (Monkspath). Organiser, Richard Buckley recently met the team wearing their bright yellow Fun Run t-shirts.



With costs increasing year on year, we look for sponsors to help ensure all costs associated with staging the run are covered. This ensures that all the runner's entry fee and sponsorship raised will go towards the nominated charities who this year are Arthritis Research UK, Knowle Football Club, Solihull Young Carers and local causes. "We are delighted that Tesco, and many other local companies, are firmly behind this year's Fun Run," said Richard. "It's also fantastic to see a team from the store with their running shoes on! We hope that teams of work colleagues, club members and relatives will enter soon".

Tesco Extra Solihull Store Manager, Simon Jasper, said: "As a store we have a commitment to supporting our local community and we are delighted to be able to support this year's Knowle Fun Run. Not only does the Lions Club do such great work organising the event, it's great to see so many people, of all ages, from the local area come together, take part and raise money for local charities."

Entry for the five mile fun run has been open just over a month and there are already hundreds of runners registered for the event on Saturday 17th May 2015. Places are still available and there is something for adults, juniors and children so the whole family can join in and take part.

Nicky Bowen, Community Champion at Tesco Extra Solihull said: "It has been a pleasure to meet Richard and Dave to hear all about the success of the Fun Run. We hope that the £800 donation will help towards the necessary staging and organisation costs and we wish them and all the runners the best for 2015!"



Balsall Common, DG Ian Haffner Visit

Had a visit to our club Meeting last night by our District Governor lan Haffner and Lion Joy Haffner.

Service Chairman Lion Steve Meakin presented a cheque to Lion Joy Haffner for her DG Partners charity of her choice The Homeless.

Shirley student off to the Amazon thanks to Shirley Lions

Adam Pearce, a 3rd year medical student and ex pupil of Light Hall School in Shirley is off to a remote

area in Peru close to the source of the Amazon to do his "medical elective" He will be there for 6 weeks delivering healthcare and education to the villagers of that remote area. Adam has to pay for all the costs associated with this most worthwhile trip himself as there is no financial help from his University or the NHS. Whilst he had been busy fundraising it was obvious to Shirley Lions that he was going to need some help to raise sufficient to cover everything. Shirley Lions were therefore pleased to help with a £1,000 donation and Lion President Ken Barker presented him with the cheque at a special assembly put on at his old school to publicize his trip.



Forthcoming Events

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: <u>convention@lions105m.org</u>

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

> Vivo in Concert plus comedian (to be announced) on Saturday 7th March 2015 7.30 p.m. for 8.00 p.m.

> > Tickets £16.00

Two acts for the price of one!

Two Course Hot Supper

Licensed Bar

At

Heart of England School Gypsy lane, Balsall Common CV7 7FW

For Tickets contact Lions

Mark Whitfield 01676 535572/07795 184745

Ross Collins 01676 534820/07813 937921

Worcester Lions Quiz Night

Friday 13th March 2015 7.30pm The Blue Bell Callow End Nr Worcester, WR2 4TY

Come along and test your knowledge at our fun quiz night. Teams of up to 6 people can be made up on the night.

£8 per person to include a meal.

Book your place by email: cathtemp@btinternet.com or ring 01905 749025

Shakespeare Lions Charity Dance

with

The Joe Loss Orchestra

This popular annual event returns on

Saturday, 21st March 2015

at

The ArtsHouse,

Stratford upon Avon

7pm for 8pm

Tickets £25.00.

Contact. Lion Keith 01789 551739

Birmingham Chinatown Lions Club Health and Care Awareness Day

Date: Monday 23rd March 2015

Time: 11am-3pm

Venue: Birmingham Hippodrome, Hurst Street, Birmingham, B5 4TB.

Cost of entry: Free

Charities confirmed so far:

Age UK

Focus (Blindness) Rethink (Mental Illness) RSVP (Rape and Sexual Violence Project) Ladies Fighting Breast Cancer Stroke Association Lions Diabetics Project Health Exchange Birmingham No Smoking Campaign Pure Gym MacMillan Nurses

The aim of our day is to raise awareness of all these illnesses and conditions.

There will be goody bags handed out at the event.

It would be great if you could join us, or encourage your friends and family to attend.

Lion Julie Reilly, Club Secretary, Birmingham Chinatown Lions Club

LIONS 105M DISTRICT GOVENOR'S WIFE'S APPEAL 'THE HOMELESS'

After the success of the first Murder over Dinner we're having

MORE MURDER OVER DINNER

(including a quiz) FISH N'CHIPS FOLLOWED BY AN ILLUSTRATED TALK Join Dr. Robbie Porter for a spine-tingling, white knuckle, tour of the dark, seedy, murderous underbelly of Worcestershire

Friday 27th March 2015 7:30pm for 8pm

Prince Of Wales, Windermere Drive, Worcester WR4 9HY (2 miles/5 minutes from Junction 6 of the M5)

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

Cheques in advance of the night to be made payable to 'LCI 105M' and endorsed on the back 'Homeless'

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

Spring Concert by the Heart of England Cooperative Concert Orchestra CPL are delighted to announce a Spring Concert by the Heart of England Cooperative Concert Orchestra

> This will take place Saturday 28 March at 7:30pm Blue Coat School, Terry Road, Coventry CV1 2BA Tickets are £8 for adults, £6 for concessions and £5 for under 16s.Please email <u>coventryphoenixlions@yahoo.co.uk</u> for tickets. The programme includes a selection of classical favourites for all the family including:

Phantom of the Opera Danse Macabre Norwegian Dances Abba Medley Selection of marches.

Proceeds will go to Age UK Coventry and to other Coventry Phoenix Lions charities

Southam Lions Grand National on April 11th 2015

At The Graham Adams Centre and enjoy a great night – First Race 7.30pm!! The proceeds will go to a very worthy cause – ZOE's PLACE a hospice for terminally ill children. We have donated funds to Zoe's Place for a number of years now and now more than ever they need our support.



Acocks Green Lions 'Brain of Brum'

Fun quiz

£6 per head, max 6 per team

Friday 24th April 2015 - 7pm for a 7.30 start

Ninestiles School Hall

Hartfield Crescent, Acocks Green, B27 7QG

Bring your own drinks and glasses, tea and coffee available

Ploughman's Supper included

Contact Lion Terry Smith to register

acocksgreenlions@gmail.com, or 07713633503

FASHION SHOW

Hosted by Kettering & Wellingborough Lions Clubs

Monday 27th April 2015 at 7.30pm

The Rutland Suite Kettering Park Hotel Kettering NN15 6XP (junction 9 of the A14)

TICKETS £5

Available from:

Jayne Handcock: 01933 273770 Wendy McKean: 01933 403411 Norma Rawlings: 01536 790254

GREAT BRANDS AT DISCOUNTED PRICES

Including Country Casuals, Evans, Gap, Next, Miss Selfridge, Oasis, Monsoon, Top Shop, River Island, Pilot, Principles, Wallis, Jane Norma, Marks & Spencer, Dorothy Perkins...

Proceeds to be divided between Lions Ebola Orphan Aid Appeal & local charities

Knowle Fun Run



Entries are open for this year's 32nd Knowle Fun Run on **Sunday 17th May**. Hundreds of runners have already made their New Year's resolution to run in Solihull's biggest fundraising event of its kind. Why not join them for this popular 5 mile Fun Run with great community atmosphere on traffic-free streets and help raise funds for Arthritis Research UK, Knowle Football Club, Solihull Young Carers and local causes. More details and enter online now at www.knowlefunrun.org.uk.



FOLLOWING the finding and forthcoming reburial of Richard III in Leicester Cathedral, which has garnered international attention, Bosworth Battlefield has been in the world spotlight recently.

And now, walkers of all ages are being given the chance to follow in the footsteps of the last Plantagenet King of England.

Hinckley and Burbage Lions Club are hosting a charity sponsored walk around Bosworth Battlefield on Sunday, May 17, 2015 and would love fellow Lions to join us on our walk.

Those who take part can choose either a five and a half or shorter circular walk. The Lions will carry out all of the organisation and all cash your group generate will be

shared equally between you and the Hinckley and Burbage Lions Club.

Flashback to last year's event where Lions club members and friends prepare to marshal the course.

There will be a staggered start times between 10-11.30am and as it is not a race, all those taking part will have the chance to sample the wonders

of the Leicestershire countryside which will hopefully be a lot more peaceful now, than that fateful day in August, 1485.

For more details ring 0845 833 5892, email cynthia.lines@hotmail.com, or write to

Lion Cynthia Lines, 60 Princess Road, Hinckley, LE10 1EB to confirm your interest and then we can send out more information.

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES:

20th – 22nd March 2015 District Convention, Park Inn by Radisson, West Bromwich 8th–10th May 2015 MD Convention, Hilton Birmingham Metropole

Charters

Bromsgrove's 35th Annual Charter

14th March 2015 Bromsgrove Hilton 7.00 for 7.30pm. Dress code: Black tie Cost £25.

Speeches will be kept short to allow time for our Frank Sinatra Tribute Artist. It is our aim to make this a party night, NOT a speeches night! Booking, please, with menu selections through Lion President Bob Wilkes on 01527 877603 <u>bertiewilkes39@aol.com</u> Apologies for the problems with finding the menu on the Bromsgrove Lions web site. It is available on the NEXT PAGE tab on our home page. <u>http://www.bromsgrovelions.org.uk</u>

The Lions Club of Nuneaton Charter night celebration

Saturday 14th March 2015 Weston Hall Hotel, Bulkington, CV12 9RU

7pm for 7.30pm - Dress Code: Black Tie Entertainment: Warren Dewitt – Sings Country

Cost per person £30 To book places please contact Lion Lesley Wilkinson, 1, Hidcote Close, Nuneaton, CV11 4YG

Kingswinford & Stourbridge Lions Club's 40th Charter Anniversary Dinner

Lion President Mary Thompson & Members invite you to join them At The Granary, Shenstone, Kidderminster, DY10 4BS On Saturday 11th April 2015 7-00pm for 7-30pm Contact for details: Lion Ray Robinson – Secretary:- ray.robinson164@blueyonder.co.uk Tel:No: Lion Maureen Whitmore Soc:Sec: mo.whitmore@virginmedia.com Tel:No: Lion Richard Styles lionrichardstyles@talktalk.net Tel:N

Tel:No: 01384 374644 Tel:No: 01384 374795 Tel:No: 01384 565024

SHIRLEY LIONS

Lion President Ken Barker invites you, your partner, guests and friends to join us for a great weekend in Southampton.

Friday/Saturday 13th/14th March 2015 at the

Meon Valley Hotel & Country Club

We hope you will join us for a superb Spring weekend, bring along some friends and come for at least one night as there is so much to see and do.

Enjoy a full English breakfast on the Saturday morning and explore either Southampton or Winchester all day.

Get back in time for the Charter Dinner where we will entertain you with the traditional Shirley Lions cabaret followed by a Disco

When going to press, the event is almost sold out. But if you are interested to join, contact Ken Barker: <u>barkerken@hotmail.com</u>

Towcester & District Lions Club

Towcester & District President Roger Pye, invites all Lions and their partners to join him at his Club's 42nd Annual Charter Anniversary Dinner at the Whittlebury Golf & Country Club on Friday, 10th April. The dress code will be black tie and the cost is £25 per person.

All bookings should be sent to the Club Secretary Peter Stratton on 01327 830552 or by e-mail: <u>p.stratton126@btinternet.com</u>.

Hinckley & Burbage Lions Club & Barwell & Earl Shilton Lions Club

Lion Presidents Danielle Benn, David Burchnall and the members of both clubs would like to invite you to their **joint 40th Charter Night** celebrations to be held at Hinckley Golf Club on the 18th April 2015, 6:45 – 7:00. Speeches will be prior to the meal commencing at 7:15 to keep them 'short and sweet'.

Dress code is Black tie or Lounge suit and there will be after dinner entertainment by the critically acclaimed **big band singer Matt Ford** and a disco for those who wish to party into the night.

To obtain a booking form email liondaniellebenn@gmail.com or call 07825265239



In the papers