



MIDLANDS NEWS

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



December 2015



It has been again an active month for the District and you will all be busy preparing for the sleigh rides. I am looking forward to receiving your reports.

Raise money for your club. Register your club using this [link](#) and tell your members, family, friends about it and every time they buy online (Amazon, ebay, booking.com etc.) through this site, a small percentage goes to the club.

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.

Harborough Twenty 12 Lions Club continues supporting the homeless

Although the Lions year 2014/15 has finished the homeless project, there are still homeless. Harborough Twenty 12 Lions Club continues to deliver goods to the homeless centre in Leicester based in the YMCA. If your Club supported the programme, or did not, why not start or continue.

"It's A Knockout 2015", by Malvern Hills Lions

All day yesterday and today were spent on the annual "It's a Knock Out" games for the SEC centers. Our guests were amazing and really enjoyed themselves. It was great to have Lions from Bromsgrove, Droitwich, Kidderminster, Marston Green, Malvern and Worcester working so hard to deliver a really super day. We were also so lucky to have the support of our friends from Fortis Housing and Brookhire.



Hinckley and Burbage Lions Club Quiz night.

Two vital caring charities have been given a timely boost by Hinckley and Burbage Lions Club.

The community minded group were invited to share out the proceeds from a recent quiz at the Plough Inn in Hinckley by landlady Louise Lavender.

Once a month the venue hosts a quiz and a nominated charity group are then given the cash raised from it. The amount raised was £400 and the Lions decided that two organisations that really serve our community would benefit.



**THE PLOUGH INN LANDLADY, CENTRE LEFT HANDS
OVER THE PROCEEDS FROM THE QUIZ TO HINCKLEY AND
BURBAGE LIONS CLUB PRESIDENT SUE PATRICK.
PHOTO: JIM TOMLINSON.**

The local Air Ambulance and Community First Responders will each receive a cheque for £200 from the night.

Hinckley and Burbage Lions Club President Sue Patrick said: 'Both charities we are giving the money to do a wonderful job in helping save lives and we felt they would be worthy recipients.'

Landlady Louise added; 'At the Plough we run these monthly quizzes and we felt the Lions who meet at our pub, would help distribute the proceeds to worthy causes.'

If you are interested in joining the Lions club they meet every second Monday of the month at the venue, so come along and you will be made most welcome.

Corby and District Lions Club

Balloon Race for World Sight Day



Corby and District Lions Club recently organised a Balloon Race with sponsorship and support from Specsavers in Corby. This was to raise awareness of sight related issues. Mayor of Corby, Peter McEwan, volunteered to spend half an hour walking round Corby town centre blindfolded, with two 'Lion' guides. He experienced some of the difficulties that a person with blindness might encounter in purchasing goods from local shops or even getting a cup

of coffee. Corby Lion Bipin Karsandas who organised the event, explained, 'The day was organised to support Lions World Sight Day and the importance of providing basic eye treatment for those living in Developing Countries and make people aware of the importance of having a regular eye test'. We were also joined by Margaret Mitchell from Northants Association for the Blind. The money raised will help provide basic treatment for conditions like river blindness and cataract operations or glasses for those with poor vision. We are grateful to Specsavers in Corby for sponsoring the event by providing balloons, gas and literature on sight issues. Finally we would like to thank all those who supported us, and through

that the club raised more than £700 which will be going to sight related charities. Our picture shows the Mayor about to release the balloons with the assistance of several Lions members and the staff of Specsavers. We are still waiting for the winning ticket which has travelled the farthest to get back to us!



Rewarding 100 hours of Service to the Community

Ella Cummins and Lennon Simeon were presented with their Gold Young Leaders in Service Awards recently. They are pictured receiving their certificates and badges from Corby and District Lions President, Dan MacDonald. Dan thanked them for helping in various fundraising and welfare events and explained that for the last year they have given up their own free time to help us run events like our Senior Citizens Tea Party, collecting money at the local supermarkets, selling light toys on Bonfire Night and many other things throughout the year. Any 11 - 18 year old can apply to join the Young Leaders in Service Scheme.

Worcester Lions Club Pack for Christmas.



Recently members of Worcester Lions Club gave over their meeting time to packing over 50 children's Christmas Shoe Boxes. Each box contains up to 30 items and includes amongst other things a bag of toiletries, pencils and pencil case, drawing book and paper, hat, gloves, a cuddly toy and other toys, sweets, a skipping rope if it is for a girl or a ball if it is for boy and a Christmas card. At this time it is not certain where the Christmas Shoe Boxes will end up, but it is certainly going to be with a child some were in the world that will not be receiving any other Christmas presents this year and in some cases, this will be the only Christmas present the child will ever

receive.

It has been reported back that the joy that the children show on receiving the gift is amazing and that one child, looked through the box of items that they had received, took one and gave the box back not believing that they were all for them.

Worcester Lions Club go Pink for Cancer



Worcester Lions Club are heralding their recent "Pink Pamper Evening" which they held in the Elgar Room of Bowl Xtreme Worcester, a huge success, although it raised less than the same event they ran earlier in the year. It raised well over £700 which will be donated to Worcestershire Breast Care Unit.

A big thank you must go to the more than a dozen beauty therapists who gave their treatments and demonstrations of beauty techniques free of charge.



There was also an extensive number of gift stall to browse which included jewellery, handmade cards for all occasions, lights in a bottles, slate signs, coasters and much much more.

A raffle took place with many of the prizes being donated by the stall holders taking part in the event. The admission tickets held by those that purchased them in advance were also entered into a free draw with a prize of a hamper full of beauty products.

Rugby Rokeby Lions Club



Again this year Rugby Rokeby Lions Club are most grateful to the people in and around Rugby who made time to support their sponsored walk which takes place annually around Draycot Water. The Walk has become one of the main fundraisers for the club and ultimately a good boost towards the funds of the local Air Ambulance who rely solely on donations such as these

In the picture president Doug Evens and fellow lions present a cheque for £5792,50 to one of the pilots.

Balsall Commons

First Aid Training at Heart Of England School, Balsall Common (Picture)



Sixth Formers and Year 10 and 11 students have been skilling up in the essentials of first aid at special training sessions offered as part of the Health and Social Care extended curriculum. The training is to equip students for their work placements this year and will be useful for post-16 students applying for health and sports related courses

"It's a really useful course and gives the opportunity for students to gain valuable training as they move on into their future careers." said Sam Grierson, teacher of Health and Social Care. "These are

important live-saving skills to have and will be of immediate value to our school community, within families and within the work place."

The bespoke sessions which were engaging, informative and practical with students practicing techniques like resuscitation and the recovery position and learning how to deal with asthma, choking and shock emergencies. There was plenty of equipment to go round as students took on bandaging and practicing resuscitation of both adults and babies.

Year 10 students received a two hour introduction to a resuscitation training programme which included communication and casualty care and casualty primary survey as well as recovery and resuscitation. The training was delivered by St John Ambulance as part of their Every Child a Lifesaver drive. Miss Grierson said, "Trainer Richard Whittingham was wonderful, demonstrating key issues and soon got our students engaging in practical activities."

The course was made possible through funding received from Balsall Common Lions Club and we offer our gratitude not only as Heart of England School, but also on behalf of the wider community who will undoubtedly be the ultimate beneficiaries of this opportunity.

"Everyone could practice skills within the session and students were really engaged in the experience. It was a very worthwhile event," concluded Miss Grierson.

Bonfire & Fireworks Display 7th November



Our Grand Charity Bonfire and Firework display once again lit up the night sky over the Lant, Playing Fields enjoyed by around 3,000 people.

This was our second year we have jointly organised this event with Berkswell & Balsall Common Sports Community Association and what a great night we all had.

The Bonfire burnt quickly, the Fireworks were greeted with many oohs, ahhs and bangs, the standard of entries as usual to the Guy competition was very high, making it very difficult for Lion President Andy to pick a winner.

Thank You to the 6th form students from the Heart of England School who worked so hard on producing a fantastic bonfire mural based on the Disney/Pixar film *Inside Out*. They were very upset watching their fantastic artwork going up in smoke!

Thank You also to the stallholders who came along to provide food and refreshments and all our other volunteers who worked so hard helping us with the setup and during the evening.

The event raised funds for many local causes, and the organisers would like to give special thanks to Simon Burt The Estate Agent who



sponsored the bonfire and Alan Heath and Sons Bathrooms our raffle sponsors and all the other raffle prize sponsors.

WINNER Finally a Big Thank You to the residents of Balsall Common and the surrounding areas, for their fantastic support coming along and making it a night to remember.

Balsall Common Village Country Market



Balsall Common Village Country Market hold weekly markets in the village hall on a Saturday morning but last weekend they held a Christmas Twilight market in the evening.

Here they sold Christmas crafts, gifts, cakes, savouries, preserves etc and served refreshments including mulled wine and mince pies.

Balsall Common Lions came along with Santa and his sleigh to help along the Christmas festivities.

The Market night was a great

success with many people paying a visit and we hope they continue this in future years.

Village Lights Switch On



Santa was out again today at Balsall Common Village Christmas Light Switch On, and what a fantastic turnout we had.

The Mayor of Solihull Councillor Glenis Slater came along to throw the switch and afterwards she met Santa and chatted to some of the Lions. Thank You to the choir from Balsall Common Primary School who sang their festive songs for us

and also to the local Businesses who joined in the festivities by providing refreshments, adding to the seasonal mood. All the boys and girls (and some

grown-ups) kept Santa very busy with photographs.

Thank you all for coming along making it a great occasion. Keep looking out to when Santa will be coming down your street!

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas.....

Peace Poster Competition

Students from Heart of England have once again entered the Lions Peace Poster competition with a large number of imaginative and thought-provoking designs.

Members of the Balsall Common Lions Club have been looking at the impressive entries and selected three particularly outstanding ones, one of which has been chosen to go forward to the district and hopefully, national competition. This was the poster by Emily Lindsay, Year 8.



WINNER

The runners up were Isobel Shilvock, Year 7 and Georgia French, Year 8. We are delighted to announce that Emily's Poster went on to win the District Competition at the weekend and will now be forwarded as the entry for 105M to the National Competition which takes place at the beginning of December.

This is the 2nd year running we have won at this level and we should congratulate Emily Lindsay and Heart of England School for such an achievement.

"District Competitions Officer, Lion Ken Barker added his congratulations to Balsall Common Lions and wished them well during the next stage of the competition. He stated that the standard of the entries this year had been very high with a total of ten posters submitted from six different Lions Clubs and also issued a plea to all Lions Clubs to make contact with their local schools so as to have a bumper entry next year."



Shirley Christmas Lights switched on with "our" Santa

Santa and Elf Sophie were the "in house" Santa team for the Shirley Town Team, which organized the switch on in Shirley town centre 19/11. Specially flown in from the North Pole they were much appreciated.



Lion Eric retires



"Longstanding Shirley Lion, Eric Morris recently retired from Lionism owing to ill health. The members felt that Eric's retirement should not pass without an acknowledgement and expression of gratitude for all the work he put in over the years where he was our Used Spectacles Officer. In fact Eric collected the truly magnificent sum of 89,760 pairs of spectacles, a figure we imagine cannot be bettered across the District (unless of course we hear otherwise). To mark the occasion Lion President Martin Wright presented Eric with a bottle of his favourite

malt whiskey and a framed photo of him with just a few of his spectacles. We wish him well in his retirement."



Wolverhampton Lions Club for you.

The club presented a cheque to the Kingswood Trust, a local organisation that give children from special needs schools a taste and understanding of being outdoors and seeing nature, where they get fruit, vegetables and eggs from and how to have fun, looking back in the club archives, the club realised that it had built a playground for the centre when it first opened in 1974 so club members were pleased to go back and see what the centre was doing and we were all very impressed.



The club has also presented a Nebuliser to a local health centre

The club held its 42nd Charter Night and as part of the evening the club presented the winner of the annual Citizen of



the Year Award who this year was Linda Evans for her charity work in her local community and also for

knitting poppies for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and last year Linda raised over Â£5,000 for the appeal



Lion Andy Coope attended the Wolverhampton festival of Remembrance service and laid a Lions poppy wreath

The club is now getting ready for its Christmas collections in the city centre

Photos of the various events are attached, also press cutting from the local paper for Citizen of the Year, keep up the good work you are doing

Young Ambassador District Final, 22nd November 2015

After many months of searching for a young person within our home communities to represent 105M as Young Ambassador of the 21st Century the search for this year is over.

The District Final was held on Sunday 22nd November 2015 at St John's Hotel Solihull. Three Lions Clubs had found a quality trio of young people to be candidates, all were impressive, all working hard within their schools and in their communities. Charles James-Pemberton sponsored by Shakespeare Lions Club, who have a good liaison with local youth and schools in their area and cultivate this to participate in Young Leaders in Service and Young Ambassador year on year. Gemma McNally sponsored by Martson Green



Lions Club, again the Club has very well established links with local schools and works with them on all kinds of youth projects. The third candidate was Jessica Browne sponsored by Shirley Lions Club, who have a good track record when choosing the winning candidate, again with strong links in the youth voluntary sectors in and around Shirley.

The competition took place throughout the morning, each candidate presenting a three minute outline of their project and how they would spend the bursary of £500 should they win, followed by 20 minutes of questioning by three judges. The education and lead judge Chris Parry, the business judge Chris Train and the voluntary sector judge Jackie Lees, all commented on how impressed they were with each candidate and how difficult it had been to decide upon a winner, as all the projects were impressive.



The judges spent a long time deliberating, some of the time over a lovely lunch, but eventually a winner was decided upon. Jessica Browne sponsored by Shirley Lions Club was declared the winner in front of many Cabinet Officers that had stopped to support this competition. She was awarded a Winner's Certificate by Chris Parry and DG Heather, and at District Convention in March 2016 she will receive the Lion Geoff Thompson Memorial Trophy to keep for twelve months plus a smaller replica to keep.

Jessica has been involved in developing, planning, designing, planting and maintenance of a Sensory Garden on Castle Bromwich Green to enable the disabled and able bodies to access it, in the garden is a Peace Tree in remembrance of all those who have lost their lives in conflicts around the world. She is a member of the local Youth Parish Council and takes her duties very seriously. As well as her school work she is also an impressive gymnast on the trampoline, there appears to be no end to her talents.

Jessica will now represent 105M in the MD Finals to be held the weekend of 19th – 21st February 2016, at The Village Hotel, Dudley, West Midlands, all Lions are invited, especially to attend the award ceremony on the morning of Sunday 21st February 2016, there is no cost, and as it's on 105M's patch easily accessible. She will also be at District Convention a month later to receive her award.

I would ask all clubs in 105M to rise to the challenge of finding a Young Ambassador Candidate for next year NOW. Young people have so much enthusiasm, energy and foresight they can enhance any Lions Club and they are our future.

Look out for updates and information for next year. Any details please contact me Cath Kendall on youngambassador@lions105m.org.uk

Obituaries

Here we pay respects to our fellow Lions who have passed to higher service. We wish their families and friends strength during these difficult times.

Northampton Eighty Lions Club

It is with great sadness that I have to report the death of Lion David Gane MJF, a Lion for nearly 38 years and President of Northampton Eighty Lions Club on three occasions. He will be greatly missed.

Barwell & Earl Shilton Lions

It is with great sadness that I have to report that PDG Lion Lewis Williams DG 1998-99 passed away peacefully at home on Friday 13th.

Advertising

VILLA RENTAL in Croatia

3 bedroom stone cottage near Porec.

Pool, Wifi, and full facilities.

www.villatolet.co.uk

VILLA RENTAL in Pembrokeshire

Seaside Holiday Home. Sleeps 8, takes dogs. 2 minutes from beach.

www.broadhavenholidaycottage.co.uk

Tel: 01858 432325/07714 522100

Email: lionjohnbush@aol.com

Forthcoming Events

Rowell & Desborough Lions Club Brass & Voices Concert

at Rothwell Parish Church, Saturday 12th December

Doors open 7 p.m. start 7.30 p.m.

With Corby Silver Band and a Handful of Harmonies

Tickets £7.50 each available from Simon Ogle on 01536 352656

Newman's Tresham St. Rothwell

Desborough Heritage Centre

Proceeds will be going to Cransley Hospice

LIONS FESTIVE WALK

Charities hope for Festive Fundraising Bonanza



On Monday 28th December Knowle and Dorridge Lions will be inviting everyone to join in their 23rd annual Lions Festive Walk at Baddesley Clinton NT House. On the Monday after Christmas the year's walk will raise funds for the Lily Mae Foundation, Solihull Bereavement Counselling Service, Children's Liver Disease Foundation as well as a variety of other local causes.

"It means so much to us that the Lions have chosen Children's Liver Disease Foundation as one of the beneficiaries of their fundraising this year", said Joanna Oldfield, Head of Fundraising. "We hope that families will

add the Lions Festive Walk to their Christmas calendar and join us for a great day out and fundraising opportunity."

"Last year 1800 walkers stepped out in ideal walking conditions to burn off the Christmas calories and donated a record of over £10,000 on the day," said Lions organizer Ute Smith. "As usual there will be no charge to take part, so add it on your Festive calendar, tell your friends and relatives and bring a car full.

There will be a choice of 3 new sign-posted circular routes - 3, 5 and 9 miles, all passing through wonderful Warwickshire countryside using country lanes, public footpaths and canal towpaths with a pub along the way. All ages are welcome especially if you get your efforts sponsored, but if arranging and collecting sponsorship will be a hassle you might prefer to walk and just make a donation.

"We are very grateful to the National Trust for allowing us to use Baddesley Clinton House and car parks for the 23rd year" says Ute. "There will be free entry to both House and Gardens for everyone when they finish their Festive Walks and walkers are invited to join the Lions for hot mince pies and mulled wine."

All Lions Clubs, Lions and families are welcome to add this to your social programme and join us. For more details and to download a free registration form, visit www.knowleanddorridgelions.com/walk or telephone 08458 33 58 94.



Reg. charity no. 509993



FESTIVE

WALK

Monday 28 December

Baddesley Clinton National Trust House

Start from 10am, finish by 4pm

Choice of 3, 5 or 9 miles

Walk off the Christmas pud

Help raise funds for



Children's Liver
Disease Foundation
fighting childhood
liver disease



The
Lily Mae
Foundation



and local causes



Add it to your festive calendar
Bring along your family & friends

FREE entry to NT House & Gardens
Enjoy a mulled wine & mince pies with the Lions

More details on
www.knowleanddorridgelions.com/walk

DROITWICH LIONS CLUB

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

" Beauty and the Beast " The Pantomime

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.

At 7:30pm Thursday 7th January 2016

The Norbury Theatre, Friar Street, Droitwich. WR9 8ED

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 President
Dave Jepson of Droitwich Lions Club. Tel. 01527 821019 or email: jeppo179@hotmail.com

First come, first served! – Offer closes November 30th 2015

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This special production of Beauty and the Beast has all the traditional Pantomime ingredients !

Oh yes it does !

With a subtle French feel, there is a suit of armour that walks, Gigi the horse and of course the traditional
Pantomime Dame in the guise of Madame Dolores Lilly, and the panto baddie, Countess Cruella.

Droitwich Lions Club

Have a great start to 2016, come and join us for our annual

Burns Night Supper and Quiz

(including our famous range of home made desserts)

Friday 22nd January 2016, 7 for 7.30pm prompt start

at

Gaudet Luce Golf Club

Middle Lane

Droitwich

WR9 7JR

Tickets £10 per head

Reply to Lion Dave Sherwen

E mail: dave.sherwen@tiscali.co.uk

Mobile: 07803 296011, Tel: 01905 770687

District Master Team Quiz

Monday 22nd Feb. 2016, 19.00-19.30 (start)

Strawberry Bank Hotel, Main Rd, Meriden CV7 7NF

£16 per team (cheques payable to Knowle & Dorridge Lions Club please) includes ham & cheese rolls

Contact: Ian Gedge gedgeij@gmail.com, tel:07976 392870

Charity: To be announced on the evening

Dress Code: Casual

Charters

Kettering Lions Club 43rd Charter Dinner

Friday 29th January 2016 7.00 for 7.30pm.

The Leisure Centre, Thurston Drive, Kettering NN15 6PB

Dress code: Dinner Jacket or Dark Lounge Suit £26 per person.

Further info: malcolmharris392@hotmail.com

Shirley Lions Club "travelling charter"

8th - 10th April 2016 with the dinner dance taking place on the Saturday night 9/4
Venue Hallmark Hotel Cambridge (<http://www.hallmarkhotels.co.uk/hotels/cambridge>)

To request a booking form or for more information please contact:

Lion Martin Wright, Lionmartinwright@yahoo.co.uk, Tel: 0845 8339547

IN THE PAPERS

Knitted poppies point to Citizen of Year accolade

A WOMAN whose love of knitting created a sensation has been named Wolverhampton's Citizen of The Year.

Linda Evans turned her hand to making woollen poppies six years ago and has since raised more than £14,000 for the Royal British Legion.

Nominations from readers of the Chronicle's sister publication the Express & Star to a shortlist from which the winner was selected by the Lions Club, which has been running the annual award since 1977.

President Trevor Jones said: "The aim is to give a public thank you to those who work tirelessly for the local community without seeking recognition. The deciding factor for Linda was the amount of work and effort that goes into making the poppies."

Stem

It all started by chance after the head fell off the Remembrance Day poppy of her aunt, said Mrs Evans, a 63-year-old mother-of-three from Owen Road, Bilston. "She arrived at my house with just the leaf and stem," she said.

"I had just knitted some flowers for a coffee morning and one of them was a poppy."

"I attached it to what was left of hers and she wore it to church the following

Sunday where it was widely admired by the congregation and my phone has not stopped ringing since."

Mrs Evans buys the pins and fabric for the leaves but is helped with donations of red wool. She raised £48 in two weeks that year and has seen demand soar ever since.

Last year she produced 5,300 poppies which were all snapped up by people from as far afield as Australia and America.

She also finds time to help raise funds for the organ at Coven Methodist Church, hold flower arranging demonstrations, and help a local day care centre.

She received a personalised plaque together with £150 for the charity or organisation of her choice and her name was added to the Lions Club community award shield.

by John Scott



Lions Club President Trevor Jones presents Linda Evans with her Citizen of the Year award