



# MIDLANDS NEWS

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



## December 2016



Congratulations to Kenilworth Lions having their Duckrace as one of the top 15 events in Briton on Tripadvisor!

Read more here: <http://www.kenilworthweeklynews.co.uk/news/quirky-kenilworth-duck-race-among-top-uk-events-in-december-1-7701377>

Like last year, I would like to make a Santa Special Edition. Please email your stories and pictures before mid January.

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. Almost 1,000 lions will see your advert. An excellent place to advertise your company, 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.

### Birmingham Chinatown Lions



Further to a request to MDHQ The Birmingham Chinatown Lions were only too happy to purchase and deliver 180 Message in a Bottles to Pannel Croft Village in Newtown, Birmingham.

President Stewart Sherman-Kahn delivered them on 2 November.

### Hinckley and Burbage Lions Club

Playtime just got even better for pupils at Westfield Infant School's Special Needs Unit after a caring gift from Hinckley and Burbage Lions Club.

Lions members visited the school last week to hand over specialist equipment to make playing with sand and water even more fun.

Lead teacher Ann Saunders explained that it will help the children with their social and language skills, while ensuring they are in a safe and secure environment.



Lions president Sue Patrick said: 'We were only too happy to provide the children with this equipment, as it is essential that they have things that can both stimulate and help with their learning at the same time. We were given a very comprehensive tour and were all very impressed with the hard work that is carried out there.'

If you would like more information about joining Hinckley and Burbage Lions, then contact them at their HQ at the Plough Inn, in Leicester Road. They meet on the

second Monday of the month, or you can check out their website for contact details.

## Aldridge & District Lions Club & World sight Day





## CORBY & DISTRICT LIONS

### Corby Lions Help Local Foodbank



The Corby and District Lions Club presented a cheque for £100 to Corby Foodbank recently. The picture shows Lion president Colin Bradshaw handing over the cheque to Foodbank coordinator, Louise Taylor, watched by Dan Macdonald.

Louise explained, 'Since we began giving out food in 2012 we have distributed over 5500 food parcels to families and individuals from the Corby area. The amount of food we have given to people in need comes to over 9 tonnes! We rely entirely on donations from the local community and continue to be well supported by churches, schools and community groups.'

People who use foodbank are people who are experiencing financial crisis ranging from problems with benefits to debt issues to working people on low income struggling to make ends meet. We are a short term solution and hope to be able to fill a gap rather than become something people become dependant upon. We hope to see a decrease in the use of the foodbank in the coming years but at the moment we continue to give out around 25 parcels a week. We couldn't do this without an army of volunteers who regularly give up their time every week.

We will be having a big collection at the Corby Tesco Extra from Thursday 1st December - Sunday 4th December. We hope that Corby will support us with the generosity it always has.'

### Excellent sales of Light Toys at Corby Bonfire and Firework Display

Corby Lions spokesman, Mike Garlick said, 'This is our major fundraiser and we sold out of our stock of light toys this year. The profits will be used to help a wide range of individuals and organisations over the coming months. Our thanks go to the people of Corby for their generosity and to Corby Borough Council for allowing us to fundraise at this event.'

### Corby Lions Help The Teamwork Trust

Corby and District lions Club recently presented a £150 cheque to the Corby branch of Teamwork. The picture shows Lion's President, Colin Bradshaw handing over the cheque to a member of Teamwork, watched by Nick Hayton and Lions Dan Macdonald and Ronnie Vickers. Nick Hayton, Business and Fund Development Officer at Teamwork explained, 'We are really pleased with the donation which will allow us to buy a sewing machine to enable our members to develop skills and help Teamwork to produce items to sell as part of our social enterprise.'

Teamwork is a registered charity that has been operating for over 30 years with centres in Corby, Kettering and Wellingborough. The charity is committed to ensuring everyone gets access to the same chances, choices and opportunities - whatever their individual needs or abilities,

The charity's members - adults with mental health needs, learning and physical disabilities - choose from a programme of enabling and education projects, activities and counselling. At the heart of the enabling

programme is a factory floor at each of the 3 centres, where members get vocational experience - assembling, packing, sticking, stuffing and labelling. Through our education classes we also teach our members independent living skills, cookery and working with computers. The members also enjoy a wide range of activities which include football, tennis, archery, pottery, singing and walking.



### Marston Green and District Lions: Santa is on his way... By Taxi!

This year Marston Green and District Lions will once again be bringing Santa around the streets of Chelmsley Wood and Marston Green, bringing a smile to children young and old and raising money for good causes



along the way. In order to save the reindeers for his Christmas Eve duties, Santa has enlisted the help of local taxi firm, TC Cars, to pull his sleigh. A couple of years ago the Lions were not able to obtain a vehicle from



their normal source and TC Cars stepped in generously offering the loan of a fully fuelled and insured vehicle for the duration of the Lions' collections. Last year they made the same offer and this year have done the same but have added a donation of £500 to start the collection off.

Lion President, Simon Moss, said "The generosity of local people and businesses never ceases to amaze me. The vehicle alone is essential for our Christmas activities and will help us raise around £3,000. The donation from TC Cars is the icing, and the marzipan, on the cake and we cannot thank them enough"

Simon is pictured here with Santa, Lions' "elves" Heather and Elaine and John Kington Promotions Manager from TC Cars who is handing over the keys and the donation of £500. Mr Kington said "It's important for local businesses to play a part in the community and we are proud to be supporting the Lions and all the wonderful things they do".

Further information about the streets Santa will be visiting with the Lions can be found on their website, [www.marstongreenlions.org.uk](http://www.marstongreenlions.org.uk), and up to date information will be posted on Facebook and Twitter on each day during the collections which run from 12 to 20 December.

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### Kidderminster & District Lions



Our Youngest Lion Member Louise Draper laying a wreath at Kidderminster, while helping a Blind Woman with a white Stick.



George King – President

### Rugby Rokeby Lions Club Supports - Operation Christmas Child

This international activity organised by a charity known as Samaritans Purse started in 1993, Rugby Rokeby Lions have been involved with it since 1998. We collect the shoeboxes that the children pack and pass them on to a central distribution point. We have never counted the boxes we handle, but estimate that we get an average of 150 per year which would equate to us having passed on over 3,000 boxes to date.

The boxes contain small inexpensive items, such as crayons, pencil, colouring books, small soft toy etc. Also a personal note can be included and photo, the boxes are then distributed throughout the world wherever there is a need

## Shirley Lions Young Ambassador wins District Competition



Shirley Lions are celebrating yet another winner of the annual Lions Young Ambassador competition. Alex Flanagan was voted District M winner at this year's finals and follows in the footsteps of last year's winner Jessica Browne who was also sponsored by Shirley Lions. In expressing our congratulations to Alex, our thanks also go to Lion Jackie Culliford, chair of our Youth Committee who "found" Alex and helped see him through to this success. Next stage is the Multiple District finals in February and we all wish Alex the best for this.

## Casino Night

Shirley Lions recently held their annual Charity Casino Night. Earlier this

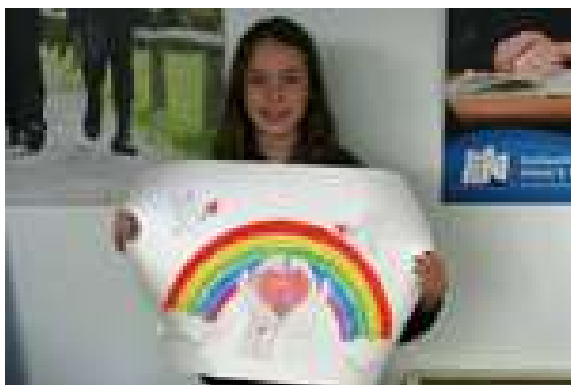


year one of our "Friends of Shirley Lions" unfortunately died as a result of a totally unexpected heart attack and for this reason and with the agreement of his widow we agreed that all proceeds from the night should go to the British Heart Foundation. Although the evening was bitterly cold approaching a hundred Lions, partners and friends turned up and enjoyed the Blackjack, Roulette, Poker and other games on offer. Being a charity event the gambling was with "Monopoly" money purchased from the "Bank". The good thing was that far more people lost than won and so around £1,300 will have been raised from the event.

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## A Celebration of Peace from Kenilworth Lions and Kenilworth School

Lions Club and Kenilworth School have been getting their heads together recently, to help promote world peace through a poster competition entitled the "Lions International Peace Poster Contest". A group of pupils from the school aged 11-13 designed their own individual posters with the theme "A Celebration of Peace".



MIA WITH WINNING ENTRY

A panel comprising Hayden Abbott - head teacher of Kenilworth School, Phil



PHIL INSHAW AND HAYDEN ABBOTT WITH THE SIX COMPETITORS

Inshaw – President of Kenilworth Lions Club, John Ellam – well known local artist and Lion Graham Pemberton met to judge the competition entries. They were impressed by the quality and creativity of the artwork and the effort that the children had put into it.



After a close-run contest, the eventual winner was chosen – Mia, aged 11. Her poster will now enter the next level of judging at Lions District level, and could even progress to the International Grand Prize winner level, with a \$5,000 prize and a trip for the winner and two family members to an award



Judges Phil Inshaw, Graham Pemberton, Hayden Abbott and John Ellam.

ceremony in the United States. Everyone at Kenilworth Lions and Kenilworth School is keeping fingers crossed that Mia's entry will progress further in the competition.



MIA'S POSTER.



### Certificate of Excellence for Lion Peter W. Thomas

At a recent meeting of Kenilworth Lions Club, our Club President Phil Inshaw presented Club Secretary with a "Certificate of Excellence" received from the Lions International President.

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### Message from the Lions Marketing/PR team

Please find the latest November 2016 Newsfeed, together with September's and October's on the following link <http://lionsclubs.co/Monthly/>

Please share what you are doing for the Centenary with the PR team and this is shown at the beginning of the newsfeed. It is our intention to place the articles on the Lions Centennial site to share with members of the public.

The PR Team are now looking for stories and hi-resolution images of how Lions Clubs across the Multiple District have utilised the funds they have raised throughout the year for the next Community Report. Please could you send your story to Mandy at [pr@lionsclubs.co](mailto:pr@lionsclubs.co) Please could you send your hi-resolution images through <http://www.wetransfer.com> - which is free to use.

THE PR Team

## Kettering & District LC

We recently learned that Kettering Sea Cadets had suffered severe losses due to a fire at their Wicksteed

Park boathouse. Their rescue boat, vital for any water activity was a total write-off, and while most of their sailing dinghies were stored elsewhere, their masts, rigging and sails were destroyed, as were several canoes and others damaged. After a few emails & phone calls to Lions we were able to agree an emergency grant of £500, which we donated six days after the fire. We were very pleased to be invited to present the cheque at their recent parade, and hopefully this will assist their target to be sailing back on the water by next April.



## Droitwich Lions A new Football Table

Lion President Grahame Howard along with Lions Martin Errington Andy Best and I paid a visit to the Inclusion centre at the High School for the official unveiling of the new Football table which were were

pleased to help them buy. The pupils were clearly pleased and Paul Buckell who is the driving force behind this centre which does so much to help many pupils get the most from school was on his usual high energy good form!





## Balsall Common Lions Updates

### Santa's Sleigh Refurb



Santa's Sleigh has been given a good clean & the Reindeer are well fed & raring to go, looking forward to coming and seeing everyone around the village very soon.....

### Santa & his Sleigh turns up at Market



Santa with his Sleigh made a brief appearance recently at Balsall Common Country Twilight Xmas Market at the Village Hall. Several children turned up to have a chat with Santa.

Santa & his Sleigh will be visiting our local area again starting Wednesday 14th December right through until Friday 23rd December. He'll also be in the Village on the morning on Saturday 17th & outside the Co-op on the morning of Saturday 24th December.

**Don't forget to look out for him.**

### **Remembrance Sunday Services:**

Balsall Common Lions were in attendance on Remembrance Sunday at both St John Baptist Church Berkswell and St Peter's Church Balsall Common. Lion Stan Shakeshaft laid the Lions Wreath in the grounds of Berkswell Church & Lion Brian Hornsby at Balsall Common.



### Grand Charity Fireworks Display & Bonfire

Remember, Remember 5th November & a lot of people in and around Balsall Common did & turned up, over 2,800 of you!. What a fantastic turnout we had. The weather was good to all of us who had a Bonfire that evening.

After the Guy Fawkes competition spectators watched the fabulous bonfire mural painted by the talented Students from [Balsall Common Primary School](#) and Heart of England go up in flames very quickly. The five



massive panels depicted a scene from the Disney-Pixar film *Finding Dory*. Many people tucked into the food and drinks and we sold a lot of glowsticks and such like. As for the Fireworks.....several nice messages on Facebook, 'Awesome fireworks! Thank you' "It really was an amazing display. well done x" "Brilliant display tonight, thanks guys x" **Bring on next Year!**

### Irish Comedy Night:

At the recent Irish Comedy Night Lion President Dave Blakeman sporting a larger than usual beard was on hand to welcome the guests as they arrived for the evening at St Peter's Church Hall. Everyone had a fabulous night thanks to the very funny comedian David Huband.

The raffle for the evening, which raised £351 went to Fisher House in Birmingham.



### Village Christmas Lights Switch On Friday 25th November

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 Mike Robinson came along to throw the switch and afterwards met Santa and chatted to everyone. 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.

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





## Christmas 2016 Another Lions Quiz to test your patience and stamina.

All our to be found in the UK

1	Article by Labour's Andy about Tory Tracey	Entries £1
2	Caught around the start	
3	Duck fluff with father's magic.	
4	Definitely reptile	Prize £25
5	Sounds like a festivity involving sword protection	
6	Favourite royal potato dish	
7	Italian Capital surrounded by King Charles	All entries to be received either by e-mail or post by Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> January
8	The Cockney cook is better we hear	
9	Prohibit loud noises	
10	Take a muddled view and visit Calvin Klein)	Entries to be sent to
11	In the West Midlands, even cats accents are discovered to be broad	
12	Masses of cinders are emphasised.	
13	Gromit instructs his mate to look	Lion Chris Malthouse
14	Fund fur coats with little alteration	
15	Sounds like jeans could be made here	
16	Festive plant reaching across the river	66 South Road,
17	Wizard's wand	
18	Allen is ill )	
19	Imitation of Guevara gets in a mess.	Clifton- Upon Dunsmore,
20	Right Royal row - dins and mayhem	
21	Bowl, not lob with reverse swing.	
22	Get an order but not a shower .	Rugby, Warwickshire,
23	Equitable for Little Dorrit ,	
		CV 23 OBZ

24	Sounds like you sang out of tune.	or
25	The centres town of England.	e-Mail
26	The bank that's pleasant to wander along	<a href="mailto:Chrismalthouse@tiscali.co.uk">Chrismalthouse@tiscali.co.uk</a>
27	Beautiful hills in which to come to terms with a bereavement. ( 3 words)	
28	The value of a job	
29	Is there a pool of petrol after the Rugby posts	
30	Note -increased crowds jostling!	
31	Dispatches a heavyweight.	
32	Random chanting is prohibited in the extreme South East of England	
33	Naturally a meadow is allowed to grow.	
34	Mary got in a mess	
35	Vietnam war leader	
36	How much is that doggy in the window?	
37	It is in Perth!	
38	A spice girl or two got up	
39	Somewhere a tout may exert themselves in contortions	
40	Various grasses – a cut and dried case	
41	This is dire, men have gone mad!	
42	Try fracking – real gas can be found.	
43	Doctor confused the male sheep ....	
44	.....and its covering is missing from the wardrobe an the lion	
45	The fast bowler's method gives the answer....	
46	....and part of the ball gets wrecked and put to earth.	
47	Sounds like a cynical smile.	
48	Range of mountains forming the spine in the North and North East?	
49	What a con – glee at a massacre.	
50	Carriage famous in Oklahoma	



## Obituary Eric Morris.

For those who knew former Shirley Lion Eric Morris they would probably agree that he was a bit of a character.

He was an enthusiastic Lion but he tended to do things the Eric Morris way.

He could be a little “generous” with his invitations to the annual Pensioners Party where everyone seemed to know and like him.

He served as Club Medic Alert Officer for some time but his forte was the collection of used spectacles and hearing aids. In his time, he was singly responsible for the collection of thousands of spectacles and in this respect, has been a hard act to follow and is therefore sorely missed.

His deteriorating health meant that he had to withdraw from most of his activities leading to his eventual resignation and it is with sadness that we heard that he had passed away. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his family.



## **Advertising**

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We also provide a comprehensive Expert Witness; CPO; Insurance; Capital Gain and Inheritance Tax services.

## **Forthcoming Events**

**Balsall Common Lions Club**

presents

**Briefcase Blues Brothers Xmas Special**

on

Saturday 10th December 2016

7.00pm for 7.30pm

Tickets £15.00

(includes Hot Supper)

Licensed Bar

at

Heart of England School

Gipsy Lane

Balsall Common CV7 7FW

For Tickets contact

Lion Ross Collins

01676 534820 / 07813 937921



# FESTIVE WALK

**Tuesday 27 December**

**Baddesley Clinton National Trust House**

Start from 9:00, finish by 16:00

Choice of 3, 6 or 9 miles

*Help raise funds for*



**Walk off the  
Christmas pud**

**Add it to your  
festive calendar**

**Bring along your  
family & friends**

**FREE entry to National Trust  
House & Gardens**

**Enjoy a mulled wine & mince pies  
with the Lions**



**PROSTATE  
CANCER UK**

**mnda**  
motor neurone disease  
association

**BIRMINGHAM  
ST MARY'S  
your hospice**

*and local causes*

**More details on  
[www.knowleanddorridgelions.com/walk](http://www.knowleanddorridgelions.com/walk)**

## Droitwich Lions Club

annual pantomime ticket offer will be available to you once again for next January at the usual bargain price of £3 per seat.

### Details:

Come and join us for the magical tale of **Cinderella**! Big on laughs, with loads of originality, audience participation and slapstick routines, this imaginative new version, comes complete with all the fun of the panto! Strong traditional character parts, including a delightful Cinderella, a particularly endearing Buttons, a rather handsome Prince and outrageously funny Ugly Sisters! Yet more mayhem and laughter ensues when two comic builders, Bodget and Leggett arrive to re-develop Hardship Hall and not forgetting, of course, a wonderful Fairy Godmother!

In conjunction with The Norbury Players, Droitwich Lions Club are able to offer panto tickets to other Lions Clubs within our zone at £3 per seat (usually £12/£10) for a once-only performance of Cinderella at the Norbury Theatre, Friar Street, Droitwich WR9 8ED at 7:30pm on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2017. Ample parking (free after 6:00pm) between The Saltway and Friar Street.

For reservations please contact:

Lion Dave Jepson – Droitwich Lions Club  
[jeppo179@hotmail.com](mailto:jeppo179@hotmail.com), Tel: 01527 821019



# Droitwich Lions Club

Have a great start to 2017, come and join us for our annual

## Burns Night Supper and Quiz

including our famous range of homemade desserts

(N.B. Haggis, neeps and tatties is the norm, but chicken breast, or a veggie option are available as a pre-order only)

Friday 20th January 2017, 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](mailto:dave.sherwen@tiscali.co.uk)  
Mobile: 07803 296011  
Tel: 01905 770687

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## Birmingham Chinatown Lions Club Chinese New Year Dinner WITH ENTERTAINMENT

To be held at Ming Moon 8 Wrotesley Street Birmingham B5 4RT  
11<sup>th</sup> February 2017, (7.00 for 7.30pm) Cost £35

This includes a full Chinese Banquet and entertainment

Raising funds for the Birmingham Women's Hospital Charity and Lions Charities

To book please contact Lion Shu Wang on 0121 634 3365 or [s.wang@ukpathway.com](mailto:s.wang@ukpathway.com) by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016 at the latest

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## CHARTERS

Lion President CD and members of Bushby Lions Club  
would like to invite you and your friends to their  
20th Annual Charter lunch

At

Everest Dine 61 Belgrave Gate, Leicester LE1 3HRH  
on SUNDAY 5TH FEBRUARY 2017 AT 12 NOON  
cost Only £15.00 per head.

Replies to Lion Randhir Roopra

TEL: 07971461067, [randhirroopra@gmail.com](mailto:randhirroopra@gmail.com)

## Kettering & District Lions Club 44th Charter Dinner

WHEN:-- Friday 17th February 2017 7.00 for 7.30pm

WHERE;-- Masonic Hall, York Road, Kettering, NN16 0DB

DRESS:-- Dinner Jacket or Dark Suit Guest Speaker & Entertainment

COST:-- £25 per person 3 Course Menu {to be confirmed later}

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### CELEBRATING 100 Years of Lions Clubs International

The President and Members of WALSALL LIONS CLUB INVITE YOU TO THEIR 42<sup>nd</sup> Charter Dinner

To be held at The County Hotel, Birmingham Road, Walsall, WS1 2NG

18<sup>th</sup> February 2017, (6.45 for 7.15pm)

Cost £24 (An extra special meal but we have negotiated it £1 CHEAPER than last year!)

Contact: Linda Wilton-grahamwilton@btinternet.com by 4<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at the latest

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### Lion President Keith and members of Bromsgrove Lions Club

would like to invite you and your friends to their

37th Annual Charter Dinner

*Hoping for 100 guests to celebrate 100 years of Lionism.*

At the historic Grafton Manor, Grafton Lane, Bromsgrove. B61 7HA

11th March 2017. 7.30 for 8.00pm

Black tie or Dark Lounge Suit, please.

Only 27.50 per head.

Contact: Lion President Keith Godwin, 9 Marsh Way, Catshill, Bromsgrove, Worcs. B61 0JD. 'Phone: 07813264753 Email: keith.godwin49@hotmail.com

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### Shirley Lions Club

It is early, but this year's charter is going to be special.

We will hold our weekend away

Friday 7/4-Sunday 9/4 2017

At the top Royal Hotel, Weston super Mare

<http://www.royalhotelweston.com>

Double room £87.50 B&B/night

Stay 1 or more nights for this special rate on the seafront, next to the Pier

Dinner/Dance Saturday evening 8/4 £ 27.50 For any information contact:

Lion Jaap de Jonge

0121-7453026

[pti@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:pti@globalnet.co.uk)

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### Lion President Mary Thompson and members of Kingswinford & Stourbridge Lions

Would like to invite you to their 42nd Charter Anniversary Dinner.

At the Hagley Golf & Country Club, Wassell Grove Lane, DY9 9JW

On Saturday 8th April 2017.

7-00pm for 7-30pm.

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## IN THE PAPERS

### Malvern Hills Lions

On the local news website, click here

[http://www.worcesternews.co.uk/news/14912110.Malvern\\_Lions\\_Club\\_s\\_contest\\_is\\_a\\_knockout\\_success/?ref=erec](http://www.worcesternews.co.uk/news/14912110.Malvern_Lions_Club_s_contest_is_a_knockout_success/?ref=erec)

## Mayor takes on blindfold walk



The mayor of Walsall Kath Phillips and her husband and consort Maurice walked around Aldridge shopping centre blindfolded

## Challenge to raise awareness

The mayor of Walsall donned a blindfold and tried to navigate her way around part of the borough to raise awareness for those who have lost their sight.

Councillor Kath Phillips was joined by her husband and consort Maurice as they walked round Aldridge shopping centre.

They were also joined by members of the Aldridge and District Lions Club as part of the Lions World Sight Day.

They were supported by the club's president Diane Price and membership chairman Mike Barker.

Mr Barker, 75, explained: "We have done lots in the past to support World sight Day but despite other Lions clubs across the country doing this we had not, so we invited the mayor and her consort to try it out and were delighted when they accepted. They walked round the shop-

### Report by Jack Averty

[jack.averty@expressandstar.co.uk](mailto:jack.averty@expressandstar.co.uk)

ping centre without the blindfold and then we put the mask on.

"I got to take them both for a coffee afterwards and the mayor spoke about how she found it a 'sober experience' and compared it to being in a dark cave.

"She also said it had never occurred to her how her and her husband would get on if they both lost their site.

"Her consort said he had concentrated really hard during the walk without the mask but then as soon as it was pulled down he completely lost his concentration. I was absolutely chuffed to get them to come out and support us and was really grateful that they stayed for a coffee afterwards." The Lions, which is an interna-

tional organisation and has clubs all over the world, dedicated itself to helping the blind after blind and deaf member Helen Keller gave a speech in April 1925 calling on members to be 'knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness'.

World Sight Day is an annual day of awareness held on the second Thursday of October, to focus global attention on blindness and vision impairment.

The Aldridge club only has around eight members and anyone interested in joining can contact Mike either via his email - [mikeb@lions105m.org.uk](mailto:mikeb@lions105m.org.uk) - or by calling him on 01922 456558. More information is available on the club's Facebook page which can be found by searching Aldridge & District Lions Club on the site.





## mayor's week

BY CLLR KATH PHILLIPS  
MAYOR OF WALSALL

WE HAVE had quite a mixed week.

On Monday we were to host two schools in the Chamber, unfortunately they didn't attend.

Then on Tuesday, I was back at hospital with my problem ear again. I was prescribed some drops which have helped reduce the throbbing sensation in my ear, but I'm still pretty deaf.

On Wednesday we had the great pleasure of attend Elmwood School's 'Italian-themed hospitality lunch' prepared and cooked and served by the students.

It was a really good meal and served very professionally.

During the evening, we hosted the 2nd Short Heath Scout Group, who were a really nice group of Beavers, boys and girls and, of course their leaders, who I truly admire for the voluntary hours they give to our young people.

They had a good time as did we and we played a game before they left.

Thursday was another experience altogether.

We met with Aldridge Lions to support 'Lions World Sight Day' we were both blindfolded to feel what it is like to be blind.

We were helped around the shopping area by volunteers.

It was a scary feeling, no sense of direction just blackness.

Being told to bear to the left or right because of stalls and shop signs which we needed to avoid.

It must be really horrible to lose one's sight.

People were watching us so we did raise awareness I trust which was the aim.

I enjoyed a cup of tea in Costa

coffee afterwards.

Thank you Lions you do sterling work in the community.

Friday I was at Court, no mayoral duties.

Not pleasant cases but dealt with. Maurice and I had dinner at 'The Masons' Newtown Great Wyrley and it was fabulous and we chilled out for the evening.

Saturday saw us at Rushall Community Centre, it was an event to raise £300 for a Christmas tree to be placed in Rushall. I bought some nice cakes and won some nice prizes.

I am glad to say they reached their target.

On Sunday, I attended the 10th anniversary of Redeemed Christian Church of God. What an experience, yet again. Such wonderful people doing such good work in the community. I spoke to them about my journey to Christ, which began as a child. Their aim is to have a member from every family of all nations and they showed that. The children were vibrant too.

It was an honour to give out awards and receive an award myself. I also received a beautiful flower arrangement and two gowns for when I get the chance to visit Africa, so beautiful. It was really touching how they welcomed me into their Church. They even gave me a cheque for £100 for my appeal.

All in all, another memorable week. Thanks to all concerned.

A final reminder - Good Traditions are playing at The Memorial Club, Bloxwich, in aid of the Mayor's Appeal.

Please support, tickets are available, only £5 each.





Phil Inshaw and Hayden Abbott with the six competitors. Mia and her winning entry is in the centre. (s)

## A peace of the action

PROMOTING world peace saw Kenilworth School team-up with the town's Lions Club.

As part of the Lions International Peace Poster Contest, a group of pupils from the school designed posters with the theme a Celebration of

Peace.

The winner was 11 year-old Mia who impressed a judging panel comprising of headmaster Hayden Abbott, President of Kenilworth Lions Club Phil Inshaw, local artist John Ellam and Lion Graham Pemberton.

Her poster will now be entered into the next level of judging at Lions district level, which eventually could progress to the international stage where a cash prize is on offer and a trip to an awards ceremony in the USA.

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### POSTER COMPETITION



## Pupils create posters for peace contest

Pupils from Kenilworth School entered a competition run by Lions International to help promote world peace by designing colourful posters. The posters were judged by Kenilworth School headteacher Hayden Abbott, president of Kenilworth Lions Phil Inshaw, Kenilworth artist John Ellam and Lions member Graham Pemberton. They chose 11-year-old pupil Mia's poster as the best. Her poster will now enter the next level of judging at Lions District level, and could progress to the International Grand Prize winner level, with a \$5,000 prize and a trip for the winner and two family members to an award ceremony in the USA.