



MIDLANDS NEWS

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



January 2017



2016 has come to an end. I don't mind seeing the back of it. Too many people that touched us left us. On top of that we were confronted with divisive political upheaval, terrible violence in the Middle-East. I truly hope that 2017 will be a better year. Personally, I look forward to an inspiring Lions year. The MD convention in Blackpool will be important as we need to take decisions about the direction of Lions in the UK. The Lions Convention in Chicago, celebrating 100 years of our organization, must be something to behold and Lion Claire and I will be there to witness our club member Chris being installed as 105M DG. That must be something I keep focusing on this year. Don't forget to email your Christmas stories for the Christmas Special edition!

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.

Worcester Lions

Have a look at this link.

http://www.worcesternews.co.uk/news/14940570.Father_Christmas_to_make_first_stop_on_festive_tour_tonight/?ref=erec

Zone C Skittles Night



Zone C had a great night at the Berkswell & District Royal British Legion.

6 of our clubs played (apologies were received from Castle Bromwich Lions) & with 50 people in attendance we were able to make up 7 teams. The teams were playing for the Zone C Skittles trophy made by the talented Lion Brian Hornsby. Lion Ken Barker did a fantastic job keeping score for us and keeping everyone in order.

The games were played in a good atmosphere with just a bit of heckling going on (mainly amongst our own team members) but it was fought in a competitive, and friendly atmosphere. Everyone was a winner but unfortunately there can only be one Team Winner on the night and

that accolade went to Solihull A Team Lions. Congratulations to them.

Balsall Common Updates

Balsall Common Lions already can't wait for Bloomin' Spring

BC Lions, in conjunction with Solihull MBC, have planted 950 bulbs around 5 localities (underneath road name plates) in Balsall Common.

The first photo shows the Lions at work and the second one Lions Alan Douglas, Tony Cunningham, Stan Newton, Lion President Dave Blakeman & Paul Coldicutt having just finished planting the last of the 950 Bulbs.

We seem to be getting very good at bulb planting and looking at some of them, leaning on their shovels as well!

Look out for the bulb displays in the Spring!



Eyes Down at Balsall Common Bingo Night

Every other Friday at 7.30pm Balsall Common Lions organise Bingo sessions in the local Village Hall. This was our only and last session of the year and was our special Christmas Bingo.

We had a variety of prizes on offer to win over the 11 games together with more than our usual number of Raffle prizes.

We played music & everyone if they wished had a glass of sherry at the interval with a mince pie.

The Snowball Prize of £30 was not won this evening and consequently rolls on until our next session commencing on 6th January 2017.

Thank you to all of you who have come along to play Bingo with us this year and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year.





Balsall Common Lions welcome back Briefcase Blues Brothers

Thank you to everyone who came along last night to see the talented Briefcase Blues Brothers playing again to a sell out audience.

They were brilliant, with so much energy, with lively energetic music, enjoying themselves as well, and getting the audience dancing and joining in the fun right from the start.

It was an excellent mix of music, dancing and a bit of comedy. A brilliant night. A great evening's entertainment.

The raffle on the evening was for the Cameron Grant Memorial Trust and raised £400.

Lions donate a new Tree for the Village



The village used to have a tree on this site but sadly it had to be removed for health & safety reasons due to pavement upheaval. Working in conjunction with Bruce Brant from Solihull MBC, Balsall Common Lions agreed to provide a replacement tree for the site.

SMBC prepared the site again and recommended a Sweet Gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Slender Silhouette'). We hope this proves to be a legacy to the Village from the Lions.

The main picture shows Balsall Common Lions members Brian Hornsby, Stan Shakeshaft, President Dave Blakeman & Andy Pemberton.

Thank you to SMBC for their help and advice and getting involved with us on this project.

In memory of Lions Peter and Sonia Hebblethwaite



These flagpoles were erected with support from Balsall Common Lions Club in memory of Lions Peter and Sonia Hebblethwaite both members of our club and Sonia was a Committee member of Berkswell & District Royal British Legion, where we also hold all our Meetings. The picture shows Lion Tony Cunningham, Chris Egan General Manager B&DRBL, Lion President Dave & Lion Marie-Louise Marsden with the Lions Flag before it was hoisted up.

Sainsbury's Local Balsall Kenilworth Road Charity of the Year



STORE MANAGER JOHN SUMNER WITH LION PRESIDENT DAVE.

Since 2009 Sainsbury's stores have each selected a Local Charity/Cause at the heart of the Community to partner with and with the public's support have raised over £11 million.

This year we are pleased to announce that Sainsbury's Balsall Local Kenilworth Road chosen Charity is Balsall Common Lions Club.

These are holistic partnerships that last for the whole year and include a range of support such as awareness-raising, fund raising in store, volunteering and donations.

Coventry Leofric Lions

Coventry Leofric Lions chose the Coventry-based Air Ambulance



Coventry Leofric Lions chose the Coventry-based Air Ambulance as one of the beneficiaries from their Donkey Derby held back in September 2016.

Lion Secretary Ian Stevenson is a Flight Instructor based and Wellesbourne near Stratford and together with Welfare Officer Malcolm Knowles flew in to the Air Ambulance base at Coventry to deliver the cheque. Leofric Lions have been a long term supporter of the Air Ambulance and we were given a warm welcome by the staff and crew.

Pictured are Lions Malcolm Knowles and Ian Stevenson with Air Ambulance pilot Joe Moor.

Coventry Leofric Lions donates 5 wheelchairs!



On Wednesday October 26th Lion President Peter Davies was joined by T.Hook, M.Partridge, D. Robinson, C. Harlock and E.Parbury at the Coventry Transport Museum where Lions presented five wheelchairs, complete with Leofric Lions logos, for the use of visitors.

Pictured are the above named Lions, plus Lion President Peter Davies sampling one of the new wheelchairs.

Shirley Lions



MEGGIE, JAKE AND MASON WITH LIONS MARTIN AND GILLIAN CONLON

Christmas came early for Jake and Mason, two Shirley youngsters, who both suffer from a severe neurological disorder called Dravet Syndrome. The condition is life limiting and causes prolonged recurrent epileptic seizures with a wide spectrum of related problems such as learning difficulties and ataxia.

Shirley Lions first became aware of the boys when local pub Woodman's Rest launched an appeal earlier this year to send them on a special holiday with their mother Meggie. The Lions contributed to the fund but when a

health issue meant that the arrangements had to be curtailed to a UK holiday some money was left over so the Lions discussed with Meggie how best to spend the balance.

It was decided that an iPad would help both boys with entertainment and with learning. They already use various apps designed to help improve co-ordination and speech on their mother's smartphone but this is not always practical, particularly on their frequent visits to hospital.

The Lions were also fortunate to have a similar used Android device donated by a member of the club, which was also passed on to the boys.

Mother Meggie said "Jake and Mason are so excited, they can't wait to get started. It will be wonderful for keeping them entertained in the car too. I'm so grateful to Shirley Lions for their generosity"



Santa making two kids very happy

Before starting off on last night's route we took Father Christmas out on his sleigh back to a road previously visited. We had learnt that two Shirley youngsters were distraught that we had somehow missed them. We pulled up right outside their houses and allowed the two young lads to get in the sleigh to have a long chat with Father Christmas and receive a present each. Two happy parents and more importantly two very happy boys.

Warwick Lions



our less fortunate neighbours, and provided hot drinks and mulled wine at Warwick Castles Christmas Carol Concert.

Pictured are Lion President Geoff. Wiskin with Warwick Mayor Cllr. Christine Cross, cadets from No. 1368 Squadron Air Training Corps and members of Warwick Lions making up food parcels and dispensing coffee at Warwick Castle.

The run up to Christmas has been a busy time for Warwick Lions. Following upon our tombola stall at the Warwick Town Victorian Evening and involvement with the Side by Side Theatre production of "Feel this moment" members participated in the annual can collection and distribution of food parcels to some of



Perfect Walking with Knowle & Dorridge

A cold sunny day led to near perfect walking conditions when Lions from Balsall Common, Birmingham Sheldon, Shirley, Kingswinford-Stourbridge and Warwick joined almost 2500 other Festive Walkers for Knowle & Dorridge Lions Festive Walk from Baddesley Clinton NT House on 27 December.

'We had to apologise to those walkers unable to park at the property who had to walk to the start of the walks', said organiser Lion Ute Smith. 'We were really disappointed when we were unable to use the overflow car park at Baddesley, due to muddy conditions, which meant more car loads of walkers than ever were turned away. Many of these then found alternative parking and walked to the start.'

The parking difficulties certainly did not affect walkers generosity with approaching £11,000 being donated for Prostate Cancer UK, Motor Neurone Disease Association, Birmingham St Mary's Hospice as well as local causes. As has become a tradition about a dozen runners started off for the 9 mile route at 8:30

as the Lions had brought the walks start time forward to 9:00 in the hope of encouraging walkers to burn off the Christmas pud earlier. This together with the ideal walking conditions encouraged more walkers to take on the longer 9 and 6 mile walks, the 3 miles being more popular with the late starters.

'We have a great relationship with the National Trust at Baddesley Clinton and they helped us throughout the day but they do have strict rules like not allowing us to park cars on the drive or in fields off the drive.

We searched hard with them for a solution this year but local landowners were unable to help and we were unable to source such a great venue with more parking,' said Ute. 'Next year will be the 25th consecutive year for our walks at Baddesley Clinton and it will be a shame if we cannot accommodate everyone wishing to take part.'

Photo: One group of walkers setting off from Baddesley Clinton House on 9 mile walk.



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Forthcoming Events

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 12th 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, Tel: 01527 821019

Saturday 4th February 2017 Lions Centennial Celebrations

In aid of various District Charities

Hosted by Lions Club of Coventry Mercia

Lion President Ravinder Sandhu
Welcomes all 53 Lions Clubs in District 105M

On

7.00pm for 7.30pm
At The Ramada Hotel, Chesford Bridge, Kenilworth
Warwickshire
CV8 2LN

£35.00 per person
Choice of Full 3 course English meal
Plus tea or coffee
Includes Free spirits, wine and soft drinks

Full Entertainment: Comedians, Magicians, Dancers and DJ

For further details please contact

Lion Dr Rakesh Sachdev (Director) – 07904 344490
Lion Anita Bedi (Region Chair) – 07904 474441
Lions Ravinder Sandhu (President) – 07989 498121

Fourth Annual Zone G Quiz Night

Thursday, 16th February 2017

at

Great Doddington Memorial Hall
42b High Street, Great Doddington
Northants. NN29 7TQ

7.00pm for 7.30pm supper

Cost £6.50 per person includes supper.

Supper choice: Fish & Chips; Chicken & Chips; Sausages (2) & Chips;
or Vegi Burger & Chips.

Please bring your own drink wine/beer & glasses. Tea & coffee will be available.

Teams will be decided on the night, so individuals welcome.

(Up to maximum of 6 per team).

Partners and Lion members from other clubs welcome.

To help people with hearing difficulties, all questions will be displayed on screen.

Answers also will be displayed on screen after quiz sheets have been collected.

Quiz Night organised by Wellingborough & District Lions Club.

Numbers and Menu choices to Lion Jayne Handcock

by Friday, 10th February 2017 LATEST.

email: roger.handcock@sky.com

Telephone: 01933 273770

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
Mobile: 07803 296011
Tel: 01905 770687

Birmingham Chinatown Lions Club Chinese New Year Dinner WITH ENTERTAINMENT

To be held at Ming Moon 8 Wrotesley Street Birmingham B5 4RT
11th 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 by 31st December 2016 at the latest

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

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}

CELEBRATING 100 Years of Lions Clubs International

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

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

18th 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 4th February 2017 at the latest

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

Shirley Lions Club

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

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.

IN THE PAPERS



President of Shirley Lions Jaap de Jonge, Youth Chair of Shirley Lions Jackie Culliford, Alex Flanagan and Ron Cross, Lions District Governor for the Midlands

Alex roars to top title for Lions

A ROARING success – that's Shirley A level student Alex Flanagan, who has scooped the title of Midlands Lions Young Ambassador of the 21st Century.

A pupil at Aston University Engineering Academy, Alex was representing Shirley Lions in the regional round of the annual contest which recognises and rewards voluntary activity carried out in the community by 15 to 19 year-olds. He will now go on to represent the Midlands at the national finals.

The volunteer church worker helps at The Bridge church, the home of Solihull Christian Fellowship in Shirley.

Alex, 17, intends to use some of the £500 bursary he has won to set up an after-school music group for children in years two to four as well as supporting the development of a local dads' Saturday morning club.

Visit www.shirleylions.co.uk for more information.