



# MIDLANDS NEWS

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## March 2014

### It's 40 years from Us and Forty Years from Him

Balsall Common Lions celebrated their 40th Charter Anniversary on Saturday 18th January 2014. The event was attended by the Mayor of Solihull Councillor Joe Tildesley and the Mayoress.

The total attendance was 150 Lions, partners and guests. They received their Charter on the 26th December 1973 and Lion Alan Douglas is the only remaining Charter member having given 40 years of service to the community.

During these 40 years, they have had 157 past and present members who have given 100,000 hours of service. Over the past 5 years they have donated over £100,000 to Local, National and International good causes.



Pictures show left to right: the 40<sup>th</sup> cake, Charter member Lion Alan Douglas and the Mayor of Solihull, Coucillor Joe Tildesley.

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### Mr & Mrs Smith become Worcester Lions

Neil and Kath Smith have recently moved from Stoke on Trent to enjoy their retirement in Worcester. Having attended club social events, club meetings and partaken in fundraising activities in the Club they were invited to become members in the New Year.

On first meeting Neil, he disclosed he had previously acted as Father Christmas so of course both Kath and Neil were on the Christmas fundraising rota - Neil in Santa outfit naturally!

Lion President Gordon Templeton, with sponsor Lion Joy Haffner, welcomed Kath and Neil to the Club.



## Shirley help Harry help others

Runners from across the Midlands are helping Harry to help others after raising £3,000 taking part in the Blythe Valley Business Park Charity Fun Run. Race organisers Blythe Valley Park and Shirley Lions Club donated all entry proceeds from the 10th annual event to the inspirational charity launched by Harry Moseley – Help Harry Help Others.

Around 300 people took part in the event in September, which included a 500m fun run and 5km and 10km races around the countryside and pathways of the Business and Country Park. Kate Smith, from Blythe Valley Park, said despite being unlucky with the weather the event received tremendous support once again.

“This was the tenth year of the run and each and every year the backing from the local community is absolutely tremendous. It was wet and windy conditions on the day, but it didn’t stop everyone taking part and all the organisers getting into the spirit of the event and helping to raise funds for a fantastic local charity. Help Harry Help Others does amazing work to support families affected by cancer, and we were delighted to have them on board as our charity of the year.”

Gillian Conlon, President of Shirley Lions Club, added: “We’ve got to know Harry’s mum, Georgie, well during the organising of the event and the work she and her colleagues put in to make the charity reach out to people that need it is phenomenal. We really appreciate the support we receive from the local community and businesses in helping us to put on the event and we’re delighted we’ve been able to work with Georgie and Help Harry Help Others over the last year. We hope our contribution helps to make a difference to people’s lives and we look forward to working with the charity again in the future.”



Pictured: Lions Andy Luckett, Gillian Conlon, Martin Conlon, Georgina Moseley and Kate Smith.

## Coventry Walkathon

In anticipation of better weather this spring, Coventry Leofric Lions Club would like you to direct your thoughts to raising funds for your chosen charity or good cause. Looking for ideas? Why not join likeminded fund raisers on their annual ramble around Coventry's War Memorial Park on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May.

As always, the funds that you raise will go to your nominated charity and the Lions only ask for a small entry fee to cover the running of the event. You will be provided with sponsor forms, numbers, first aid, marshals and a very safe route. Why not take up the challenge and see how much you can raise?

If you want to take part and need a charity to support Coventry Leofric Lions support the work of the Resource Centre for the Blind in Earlsdon Avenue.

Full details can be found on [www.leofricions.org](http://www.leofricions.org) , [www.coventrywalkathon.com](http://www.coventrywalkathon.com) , or by contacting Reg Brown, Walkathon organiser on 07766 667349, email [reggie-brown@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:reggie-brown@hotmail.co.uk)



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## Barclays Bank awarded Certificate of Excellence

Sue Hault recently retired from Barclays Bank in Balsall Common after 43 years service. Over the years Sue and the staff have supported the Lions with their Fund raising efforts.

Lion Alan Douglas presented Sue with a Bouquet of Flowers & Certificate of Excellence to Barclays Bank in appreciation of its valuable service to the club.



## YOUNG LION LIAM TO HEAD MEDICAL EXPEDITION TO HONDURAS

Twenty year old Birmingham Medical Student, Lion Liam Barrett of Marston Green & District Lions Club, has been chosen to lead a medical expedition to a remote rural area of Honduras in Central America this summer. Liam will lead a team of 44 doctors, pharmacists and fellow medical students from around the UK to treat thousands of patients and complete a public hygiene project in a ten day expedition.



Liam has been chosen as President of this year's Global Medical Brigade to Honduras and last year he took part in the expedition to Ghana, his first expedition. Liam says that "The conditions in Honduras are horrendous. Education, health care and clean water are luxuries for the rural population there, families typically living on only \$2 per day and 3 gallons of water."

Liam's task is to make sure everyone gets to Honduras, the project is successful and everyone gets back to the UK safely. The members of the team are providing their own funds for the project (£1,550) but, in addition, Liam has to find over £3000 for the drugs and dressings the team will be taking with them.

Lion President Geoff Matthews said "We are really proud of Liam. He joined the club when he was only eighteen after being the District 105M Young Ambassador in 2011/12 and going on a Lions Youth Exchange to Poland that summer. Liam has recently passed his second year medical exams but, more importantly, his driving test (at the third attempt). Liam has so much energy and enthusiasm we wonder what he will get the club involved with next."

"If anyone would like to help Liam raise the funds for the drugs and dressings, donations can be sent to Marston Green & District Lions Club (c/o 12 Hillhurst Grove, B36 9TS) or if anyone would like to contact Lion Liam direct, his email is [lx133@bham.ac.uk](mailto:lx133@bham.ac.uk)."

Picture shows Liam last year in Ghana where he helped to treat 2000 people, mainly from malaria. Liam said "I got more clinical experience in two weeks than in a whole medical degree course! And I played a lot of football with the little kids."

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## Zone H Quiz Night

February 20th saw over 40 members of Zone H attend a fun quiz organised by Wellingborough & District Lions Club. All clubs in the Zone were represented and after a fish and chip supper the quiz commenced. It was highly competitive, but after 10 rounds of questions, the winning team "Me & DG" were the victors. The team consisted of DG Simon Moss, Lion Christine Moss, Region Chair Lion John Gray and Kettering President Lion Barbara Gray. They each won a packet of chocolates, and the losing team, who shall be nameless; each went away with a wooden spoon!



## PDG Lion Norman celebrates 50 years

Past District Governor Lion Norman Allen recently celebrated 50 years as a Lion. His friends at Solihull Lions celebrated this with him by presenting him with a glass obelisk, which he was delighted to receive.

Norman joined Lions in 1964 in Exeter where he was in the Insurance business. He moved around quite a lot in the early days and was a long time member of City of Birmingham Lions Club (1980 to 1990). When that club folded he joined Knowle & Dorridge Lions but after a couple of years transferred to Solihull Lions where he has been ever since.

Norman was the third District Governor of 105M being elected at the Northampton District Convention for the year 1977 – 1978.



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## Lions supporting Olympic Hopefuls

Balsall Common Lions recently provided safety pads to the Solihull Mohawks (Short Track Speed Skating Club) which are essentially needed safety equipment required for both the beginners and top flight speed skaters alike.

The Mohawks are proud to announce that three of the five skaters selected for the Team GB Short Track Speed Skating squad are Jon Eley, Charlotte Gilmartin and Richard Shoebridge. Jon Eley has also been selected as the Team GB Flag bearer. Our congratulations and best wishes for success are sent to them all.

Below are some of the Olympic hopefuls of the future with one of the safety pads donated.



## Life-saving defibrillator installed in Stourbridge shopping centre

A life-saving defibrillator unit that can revive heart attack victims has been installed in Stourbridge's Ryemarket Shopping Centre thanks to the generosity of Kingswinford and Stourbridge Lions.

The charitable group bought the device, which is secured to a pillar close to Home Bargains and Costa Coffee, and are also funding training for 12 people to use it in the event of a cardiac emergency in the centre - at a cost of £1,600.

The new equipment, which has been bought through St John Ambulance who will provide the training, was installed in the shopping centre on Valentine's Day (February 14).

Ryemarket staff, including centre manager Kelley Dyas, a number of workers at Costa Coffee, Hallmark, Waitrose and the Carphone Warehouse, are all being trained up to use the equipment – so it is hoped there will always be someone on duty able to use the defibrillator which delivers an electric shock to the heart when someone suffers a cardiac arrest.

Mrs Dyas said: "I approached the Lions last year to discuss the possibility of working together on securing the funding and they agreed that it would be a worthwhile cause that would benefit the Stourbridge community. We are in a central position in the town so we would like as many people as possible to know of the equipment's whereabouts in the Centre in case of any emergency"

Police are also trained in the use of the device – which can mean the difference between life and death as the British Heart Foundation estimates survival chances for cardiac arrest victims reduce by ten per cent for every minute without CPR and defibrillation.

Calls had been made for a defibrillator to be installed in the Ryemarket since 2011 when shop staff were rocked by the sudden death of a young girl who suffered a cardiac arrest in the Card Factory. Police and bystanders carried out CPR on the youngster at the scene and she was rushed to Russells Hall Hospital but could not be revived.

Photo shows left to right Vice President Lion Mary Thompson, Lion Graham Foster and Ryemarket Centre Manager Kelley Dyas with the defibrillator.



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Don says *'It's going to be really g-r-e-a-t !!!'*

One of the country's leading comedians and actors Don Maclean will be setting the runners on their way and awarding the winners prizes at this year's Knowle Fun Run on Sunday 18th May.

"I'm delighted to have been asked to support the 5 mile Knowle Fun Run, which I understand has been going for 31 years now, and last year over 2,000 runners from all over the Midlands and beyond raised over £50,000 for charity," says Don. "It's going to be a really great event with all the proceeds this year going to some really worthy causes - The Brian Tumour Charity, Northleigh House and Vision Care and local causes. I'm really looking forward to a great day with the Lions and hope that runners will enter on-line to take part before the strict 11<sup>th</sup> May deadline, we don't want anyone disappointed do we!"

"Visit our [www.knowlefunrun.org.uk](http://www.knowlefunrun.org.uk) website and get your entry in early," says Fun Run organiser Noel. "As well as the 4 mini-runs this year, there are prizes & trophies to be won by the fastest Junior, Secondary, Adults, Veterans and Super Veterans, men and women, as well as team trophies. Why not get together with three friends or colleagues from work or school and make up a team. Or why not dress up in fancy dress and give the spectators around the course a good laugh."

For more information please visit [www.KnowleFunRun.org.uk](http://www.KnowleFunRun.org.uk) or call 08458335894

Photo shows Don Maclean with Noel Kinahan showing off this year's Fun Run t-shirt



 Birmingham Chinatown Lions Club  
伯明翰华埠狮子会

# Spring Quiz 智力竞赛

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**Your Would Be a Fool To Miss It**

Tuesday 1st April 2014 7.30pm  
Max Team of 6 people £5 per person (Canapés Included)  
Edmunds Lounge Bar  
106-110 Edmund Street Birmingham B3 2ES  
To book a team please contact Lion Stewart on 07973833519  
or email [stewart@chamberlainsurveyors.co.uk](mailto:stewart@chamberlainsurveyors.co.uk)

In Aid of  Ladies Fighting Cancer

 Ordinary People  
Amazing Things

## MD Final Young Ambassador of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century 2014

The weekend of 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2014 saw the MD Final of the Young Ambassador Competition at The Village Hotel, Dudley, West Midlands.

Thirteen Districts in 105 were represented by young people between the ages of 15 and 19 doing incredible things within their communities.

105M was represented by Abigail Lake a 17 year old A level student, sponsored by Shirley Lions Club. Abigail is very representative of the young person taking part within the competition – a leader within her ATC Squadron; a role model for young people within the group; a mentor at school; working in the evening with SoLO supporting children with learning disabilities and more recently launching a good news project to share the great work that youngsters like her are doing within the communities, something she would like Lions to get involved with, so let's give her some support.

The weekend was a whirl of activity (as it always is), the Young Ambassadors arriving on Friday afternoon and quickly getting to know each other, by the time they ate their evening meal all were working as a cohesive group. They competed with each other in a tortoise race (a horse race but with a twist), and began to organise the entertainment for the following evening.

Saturday saw the interviews of all thirteen 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 vice versa.

Saturday evening saw the Gala Dinner, this was the best attended Dinner that there had been at the Competition, so interest is growing within Lions clubs, Lions and supporters came from all over the country.

At the Dinner the Young Ambassadors provide the entertainment and this year was no exception, they put their skills to the test and provided the audience with a hilarious skit on what some of us know as 'Blind Date' others may know as 'Take me Out'.

Sunday morning came around all too soon and the formalities began. The entrance of the Candidates to the song 'what have you done today to make you feel proud', broke with the old tradition of clapping, and was warmly appreciated. Each of the Young Ambassadors presented their three minute summary of their projects, 'very humbling' as the Lead Judge Richard Horner said, to listen to what these young people do week in and week out.

The Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Alan Finch, commented on the competition and how impressed he was by all the youngsters, and thanked Lions for inviting him along.

Mike Field, the Co-ordinator of the Jubilee Sailing Trust Next Generation Trust presented the Shipshape Award to Greg Wade, sponsored by London Seven Kings Lions Club. As part of this he wins a £500 cheque and a week working on a Tall Ship alongside able bodied and disabled crew. This award provides leadership training to the recipient.

The overall MD Young Ambassador Award was given to Chris Phillips 105BS, sponsored by Bridgnorth Lions Club. He is founder and scheme director of two Heartstart Schemes in Bridgnorth, where members of the community and school students can learn Emergency life support for free in a two hour course. As he says this meets his objective which is to simply save lives. As well as this he is a Sergeant Major within the Shropshire Army Cadet Force, DoFE leader and mentors dyslexic students.

The Young Ambassador Competition is over for 2014, but the search now starts for the new Young Ambassador for 2015. The 105M District Final will take place on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2014 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.

