



MIDLANDS NEWS

Editor Lion Jaap de Jonge
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December 2014

Over the last few years I have learned a lot about ways of easy raising money. Like our club, you can register your club here: <http://www.giveasyoulive.com> and anybody that nominates your club or any other charity, registered on that site, will raise funds when they click on a store via that site and buys from that store online. For example, you want to buy something from Amazon. Go to Amazon via <http://www.giveasyoulive.com> instead directly and a small commission will go to the nominated charity. I recently booked a business trip and over £3 went to our club charity account. Do we all realise how much money we leave lying on the street? Just bend a little and we can raise large amounts of money with hardly any effort.



NEW! In order to try to offer more up to date news and to keep you as well informed as possible we have now started the Midlands News Blog. It can be found here: <http://midlandnews105m.wordpress.com> All submissions to the midlands News Editor will go directly on the blog. This does not change the newsletter, but the blog will be always as up to date as we can manage. Thus if you want to know what has happened and will happen in the district, roll through the posts on the blog.

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.

What I did next!



My name is Simon Moss and last year I was District Governor for the midlands district (105M) of the British Isles and Ireland of Lions Clubs International. It was a very busy but thoroughly enjoyable year where I got to meet the vast majority of members in the district and to see the wonderful work that Lions Clubs do everywhere.

So what happens after such a busy year?

The first role that I have is that of Immediate Past District Governor. As such I am a member of the district's Finance and Administration Committee, the Long Range Planning Committee, the Global Membership Team and the Global Leadership Team. My role is also to be there for Ian as this year's District Governor should he wish to call on my recent experience. As member of the committee's above my role is, in part, to ensure some consistency from my year into Ian's and to pass on lessons that can be learnt from what has gone before.

As well as being IPDG, Ian asked me to chair the Communication Committee for the district which includes the roles of Webmaster and IT Advisor, Public Relations Officer, Midland News Editor, Competition Officer

and Almoner. I am proud of the clubs in the midlands and the way in which they have embraced all channels of communication but in particular in the rise of the use of social media.

Not wanting to sit around doing nothing I also volunteered to take on the role of chairman of the committee organising the national convention for Lions Clubs International which will take place at the Birmingham Metropole Hotel on the 8 – 10 May 2015. Some 700 Lions from the British Isles and Ireland will be attending the convention and we will make sure that their visit is fun.

Finally I have been appointed deputy for a national project to support the provision of sewing machines and training to impoverished widows in Asia and Africa. There are some 245 million widows around the world and some 100 million live in poverty. Lions have partnered with the Loomba Foundation so that for every sewing machine purchased by a Lions Club (at a cost of £50) the Loomba Foundation will match it and the Lions Clubs International Foundation will match the combined donation. This means that helping impoverished widows is as easy as 1-2-4.

Wellingborough & District Lions Club

Wellingborough & District Lions Club held a Diabetes Awareness Day on 14th November to celebrate World Diabetes Day. Here we see Lion Debbie Jeffs going through some of the literature with a shopper in the Swansgate Centre.



Hinckley and Burbage Lions Club.



It has been a busy November for Hinckley and Burbage Lions Club.

Early in the month they marshalled the gates for the annual Burbage Bonfire Party, where the villagers assemble for a massive firework display and any profits go back into the local community.

Despite it being quite a cold evening, the rain managed to stay away during the display and hundreds turned out for the event at the Britannia Road recreation ground.

The Lions were kept busy for almost three hours as families flocked to the event and a delighted club President Danielle Benn thanked many members for turning out to make it a very successful occasion.

She said: 'This year we have almost doubled our membership and the added numbers are once again making us a vital part of the community and its fundraising activities. The club raised a fantastic £5,800 at the event!

A week later, almost half the club turned out for the annual Remembrance Sunday march through the town, where Danielle



laid a wreath as part of the service at the memorial gardens in Argent Mead, Hinckley.

Wellingborough & District Lions Club



A presentation of new and used clothing was presented to the Hope Centre in Northampton by Lion President Martin McKean and Lions Chris Haynes & Wendy McKean of Wellingborough & District Lions Club to Cathie Maryon the General Manager. The donation was made in support of the DG's wife's charity for the Homeless and also to support the local centre.

Kingswinford and Stourbridge Lions Quiz Night on Saturday 15th November 2014



Yet another very successful night was had with our latest quiz. The event which was held in aid of the Ronald McDonald House, Birmingham was attended by 16 teams, with "The White Knights" ultimately being victorious. The evening also included an interval buffet and waiter service which was provided by the members.

The winners were presented with a certificate and a cash prize which they very kindly donated back for the charity, and the last placed team received a box of jelly babies.

Ronald McDonald Houses provide free 'home away from home' accommodation for families with children in hospital and we were delighted to be able to give the charity a cheque for £400.00.

Sandwell Lions

Official Handover of Gogo House!

Sandwell Lions are thrilled to announce that the official "handover" of the New House has taken place in Swaziland!

The ceremony was attended by members of Manzini Lions Club, their President Patrick and also The Deputy Prime Minister of Swaziland!



MANZINI LIONS & SWAZILAND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER HANDING OVER KEYS TO NEW HOME TO GRANDMOTHER MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO DONATED. RAY & SANDWELL LIONS



The Gogo is standing in the centre of the attached

photo with Patrick on the right of the photo.

There is a plaque on the wall stating that Sandwell Lions UK, Manzini Lions Club and the Red Cross sponsored the building.

Balsall Common Lions

Remember, Remember 8th November

Balsall Common Lions and teamed up with Berkswell and Balsall Common Sports & Community Association and organised a Balsall Common Bonfire and Firework extravaganza. In spite of torrential rain during the day, hampering the Lions setting up, the rain eased off late afternoon making it a dry evening although conditions were muddy in parts underfoot, but the children loved that!

Over 2,000 people came in the evening from Balsall Common and the surrounding area.

This year students at the Heart of England School have painted a scene inspired on the theme of *Despicable Me*, including the villainous Felonious Gru and several minions! The work had taken the students two and a half days to complete and has been



overseen by Lions' artist Alan Douglas.

The Students had worked hard but they said it has been worth it and they were looking to seeing their finished work on the Bonfire.

Lion President Mark Whitfield said, "It is absolutely amazing!", when he visited Heart of England to see the finished artwork.

Indeed everyone agreed on the night it was absolutely brilliant, although after the bonfire was lit, maybe the students wouldn't have been quite so happy to see it go up in flames in about four minutes!

We also held a 'best Guy competition' and the standard of entries was very high indeed, giving Judges John & Sue Walsh a hard job in picking a winner, but they awarded First Prize to Catherine & Nicholas Edmunds of Balsall Common Primary School, who received a £20 voucher and their school received a £50 donation.

The first prize in the raffle was an iPod Touch won by Kevin Condon with 25 other prizes donated by local businesses.

Chris Rees, Chairman of the B&BC Sports & Community Association said: "We were delighted to work alongside the Lions in this key event in the local calendar, and we are pleased that it went so well.

The organisers would like to thank Jamieson Christie, who provided sponsorship towards the bonfire, Alan Heath and Sons Bathroom Design, who sponsored the raffle and all of our raffle prize contributors.

Mark Whitfield, President of Balsall Common Lions said: "Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped to pull this event together, and to all of the people who came along on the evening. You all played a part in this fantastic event".



Another Defibrillator for the Village

A second Defibrillator is now available in the village outside Carstins Garage, Balsall Common thanks to the efforts of four local organisations.

This was another of the original four sites identified by Jeff Way of Fast Aid, the local Community First Responder Group, as it is well placed near to Berkswell Railway Station.



Balsall Common Lions were pleased to be able to fund this additional defibrillator, with special thanks to Carstins for their cooperation and help in facilitating this, and to Job Squad who fitted the defibrillator for free.

The picture shows John Sleath from Job Squad, Jeff Way of Fast Aid, Simon Gould Brand Manager at Carstins and Lion President Mark Whitfield.



Santa Claus is coming to town

Santa's been busy all year getting ready for Christmas and looking after Rudolph and all the other Reindeer, but he can't do it all on his own, his elves have been helping to! The sleigh has been cleaned, the music plays, the electrics and lights all checked...they have to do this for elf & Safety reasons.

Balsall Common Christmas Lights Switch On



In spite of the weather there was a fabulous turnout for the Balsall Parish Council and Balsall Common Lions Christmas Lights Switch On.

Santa and his Sleigh was also in attendance, with Balsall Common Lions giving a helping hand, as many children took the opportunity to speak to Santa telling him how good they had been and some of the things that they would like for Christmas this year.



A choir from Balsall Common Primary School gave us lots of Christmas cheer singing festive songs, while the local businesses also joined in the festivities by providing sweets, soft drinks, coffee and mince pies. Our thanks go to everyone who came along to support and help with this now annual Christmas tradition.

Shirley Lions promote Message in a Bottle



Shirley Lions recently got together with a number of GP practices in Shirley to promote the Lions Message in a Bottle Scheme (MIAB). Lion Jacqueline Culliford (MIAB co-ordinator) established that a number of practices were holding one-off flu jab surgeries where nothing else would be going on other than the flu jabs. Shirley Lions made arrangements to promote MIAB at the same time.

Having been warned that these surgeries were run on production line schedules where there would be one snaking queue around the waiting room and at least half a dozen nurses all working flat

out the Lions were also told that it would be best to approach people as they left as no-one would want to lose their place in the queue to listen to us.

Come the first big day and the Lions were amazed at not only the number of people passing through but also the speed they were going through. Still it went extremely well and a large number of bottles were distributed.

7 more flu jab surgeries later and then a tot up of the number of bottles left and the grand total was a magnificent 1,700 bottles distributed.

Las Vegas comes to Shirley



The evening of Friday 14th November saw approaching 100 Shirley Lions, partners and friends descend on the Shirley Social Club for the annual charity Casino Night. This year the beneficiary of the fund raised on the night was the Pulmonary Fibrosis Trust, a charity the Lions thought particularly apt as one of their members suffers from the disease. The Trust exists to help fund research into the disease

and also to support people who are "Living with Pulmonary Fibrosis".

As the cost of the Company supplying the tables was covered by sponsorship from local firms it meant that all the monies taken from the sale of tickets and the evening's tombola was profit. Furthermore as a lot of the punters were not very good at roulette, poker or blackjack they had to keep to coming back to the Bank to buy more chips!

The evening should raise around £750 which will be presented to the Trust shortly.

Shirley Christmas Lights Switch-on



On Friday 20th November the Mayor of Solihull, Councillor Kate Wild officially switched on this year's Christmas Lights in Shirley. Such an event would be not be same without Father Christmas and so Shirley Lions were asked if they would bring along Father Christmas, his sleigh and the reindeer themed towing vehicle to assist.

Half an hour before the switch-on and the area around Red Lion Square in Shirley was already packed with children so Father Christmas, aka Lion Pete Jones immediately set to work asking who had been good this year and handing out the sweets kindly donated by the local Asda store.



The lights were duly switched on and people started to drift away except for the queue to see Father Christmas which for some reason got longer and longer as fewer and fewer people remained in the Square.

Two hours later and by then a very hoarse Father Christmas saw his final child and the Lions were able to pack up and return the sleigh to the lock up before it

comes out again for the annual sleigh collection around the streets of Shirley.

All in all a very busy and satisfying community service event.

Young Leaders at the Europa Forum

Some photos from the recent Europa Forum - 31.10.14 at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham. The activities promoted Lions youth activities and the participants were Lions Young Leaders, Young Ambassadors and Leos.

The photos are of young people taking part in fund raising activities as part of their Young Leaders in Service Award. They are from Kingshurst Academy & Marston Green Lions Club. The funds are for Fisher House which is a 'home from home' for injured servicemen and their families on the site of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham. The young people also went to Fisher House in the afternoon to plant daffodil bulbs in the grounds.



Balsall Common Lions Club

Present

"A NIGHT OF BLACK COUNTRY HUMOUR"

with

COMEDY DUO

"DANDY"

Saturday 6th December 2014

7.30pm. for 8.00pm.

TICKETS £12.50

includes Fish & Chip Supper

at

St Peters Church Hall

Balsall Common CV7 7EA

Contact Lion Ross Collins

01676 534820 / 07813 937921

Pay Bar

No Refunds

Knowle and Dorrige Lions

LIONS FESTIVE WALK

Charities hope for Festive Fundraising Bonanza

On Sunday 28th December Knowle and Dorrige Lions will be inviting everyone to join in their 22nd annual Lions Festive Walk at Baddesley Clinton NT House. This year's walk will raise funds for Arthritis Research UK, Knowle Football Club, Solihull Young Carers as well as a variety of other local causes.

"It means so much to us that the Lions have chosen Arthritis Research UK as one of the beneficiaries of their fundraising this year", said Emma Macdonald, Regional Fundraising Manager. "We hope that families will add their Festive Walk to their Christmas calendar and join us for a great day out and fundraising opportunity."

"Last year we had a record 1400 walkers step out in ideal walking conditions to burn off the Christmas calories," said Lions organizer Ute Smith. "This year we are hoping to attract even more and set a new record by raising £10,000 for these very worthy causes."

"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," says Ute.

There will be the usual choice of 3 new sign-posted circular routes - 3, 7 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.



Once again this year the National Trust will open Baddesley Clinton and are offering our Festive Walkers free entry to both House and Gardens when they finish their Festive Walks. Afterwards all walkers are invited to join the Lions for hot mince pies and mulled wine

For more details and to download a free registration form visit www.knowleanddorridgeions.com/walk or telephone 08458 33 58 94.

'Fundraisers visit Baddesley Clinton House to get in the Festive spirit'

Tracy Lake – Chairwoman, Knowle Football Club
Barry Noy - Solihull Young Carers Events and Activities Co-ordinator
Father Christmas – Lion President Barry Dale
Festive Walk organiser - Lion Ute Smith

DROITWICH LIONS CLUB

Are pleased to announce that they have hired the Norbury Theatre in Droitwich for a special performance of The Norbury Players' 2015 pantomime:

" Sleeping Beauty "

*By Julie Petrucci and Chris Shinn
By arrangement with Lazy Bee Scripts*

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.

The performance is at 7:30pm Thursday 8th January 2015
At The Norbury Theatre, Friar Street, Droitwich.
WR9 8ED

There is 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 Dave Jepson of Droitwich Lions Club

Tel. 01527 821019 or email: jepo179@hotmail.com
First come, first served!

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Droitwich Lions Club

Get the New Year off to a good start and come and join us for our annual

Burns Night Supper and Quiz

Friday 23rd January 2015, 7 for 7.30pm prompt start

at

Gaudet Luce Golf Club

Middle Lane

Droitwich

WR9 7JR

Tickets are £10 per head

Reply to Lion Dave Sherwen

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

Mobile: 07803 296011

Master Team 2015

I hope you and all your club members have enjoyed the magnificent summer and are now looking forward to the Christmas festivities.

Just to give you and your members something to look forward to, once the Turkey and Christmas pudding have been eaten and the strains of Auld Lang Syne fade away, our popular **Master Team quiz will be held on Monday 23rd February**. We are delighted to announce that our regular Quiz master Steve Worrell will once again be setting the questions to stimulate those little grey cells. The venue and time are the same as last year, 19:00 for 19:30 start at the Strawberry Bank Hotel, Main Street, Meriden. Profits from the event will be put towards the eye camp programme.

So all you need to do is get a team or teams of 4 from your club members; fill the form in and send it with a cheque for £16 (payable to 'Knowle and Dorrige Lions Club') to me at the address shown below.

Please choose an appropriate team name and remember the maximum number in a team is four. We must make this a condition for the trophy in order to be fair to the other teams. You can always make up another team with members from another Lions club.

Yours in Lionism

Lion Peter Smith

Master Quiz Organiser

Email: petersmith28@blueyonder.co.uk Tel: 01564 773118

28 Moorfield Avenue Knowle Solihull B93 9RA

District 105M Convention 20-22 March 2015

Park Inn Radisson-West Bromwich

Package (2 nights B&B, host night, Saturday Lunch, banquet & ball, Sunday coffee)

£240/couple, £165 Single occupancy

For booking form: convention@lions105m.org

Friday host night theme: 1970's

Saturday Business session Free of Charge

International guest: Past Int. Director Douglas Alexander from New York

Sunday Morning: stroll through the Sandwell Valley followed by Q&A session

Quiz for the DG's Wife's Appeal 'The Homeless' Supporting

Date: 14th APRIL 2015
Time: 7:00PM
Cost: £5.00 PER PERSON INCLUDES FOOD
Teams: MAXIMUM OF 6
Venue: EDMUNDS LOUNGE BAR
EDMUND STREET
BIRMINGHAM
B3 2ES
WWW.EDMUNDSBAR.CO.UK
Raffle: TO BE HELD ON THE NIGHT

To register your team please contact:

Lion President Stewart Sherman, stewart@chamberlainssurveyors.co.uk

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES:

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

Charters

Walsall Lions Club 40th Charter Anniversary

14th February 2015

At The County Hotel, Birmingham Road, Walsall

6.45 For 7.15

Look forward to a special meal and entertainment to celebrate our ruby anniversary.

Menu and details to follow from

Linda Wilton, Secretary, Walsall Lions Club

Bromsgrove's 35th Annual Charter

Bromsgrove Lion President Bob Wilkes invites all Lions and their friends to Bromsgrove's 35th Annual Charter. It is being held at the Bromsgrove Hilton on 14th March 2015, starting at 7.00 for 7.30pm and will cost £25 per head.

Further information is available from Lion President Bob Wilkes on 01527 877603 or email bertiewilkes39@aol.com. - More details on the web in the near future.

SHIRLEY LIONS

For a number of years now our Charter celebration has been a full weekend away and in a different part of the country each year. Our 2015 Charter will be:

Friday 13th March to Sunday 15th March 2015

Meon Valley Marriott Hotel, Southampton.

Package price for 2 nights B&B plus Banquet & Ball is £105 per person.

For details and registration contact Ken Barker: barkerken@hotmail.com

In the papers



Father Christmas with Lions president Ute Smith, Tracy Lake from Knowle FC, Barry Noy from Solihull Young Careers and Pam Hill and Dean Chandler from the National Trust are hoping for a bumper turnout at this year's festive walk. 46.014.013.sol.jm1

Date for the festive diary

WHAT better way to work off the Christmas season's excesses than the annual Lions Festive Walk.

Taking place on Sunday, December 28 there will be three walks to choose from - three, seven and nine miles long - and all starting and finishing at Baddesley Clinton National Trust property and taking in the delightful surround countryside - and some of its pubs.

This year's walk will raise funds for Arthritis Research UK, Knowle Football Club, Solihull Young Carers and a variety of other local causes.

"Last year we had a record 1,400 walkers step out in ideal walking conditions to burn off the Christmas calories," said Lions organiser Ute Smith.

"This year we are hoping to attract even more and set a new

record by raising £10,000 for these very worthy causes."

Once again the National Trust will open Baddesley Clinton and are offering Festive Walkers free entry to both house and gardens when they finish their walks.

For more details and to download a free registration form visit www.knowleanddorridgelions.com/walk or call 08458 33 58 94.

Shirley Christmas Lights

The countdown is on



Left - Ashton Larcombe tells Santa he's been a very good boy. 48.014.002.sol.jm7



The Shirley Town Team - Sandra Grite from ASDA, Gill Phipps from Early Years, Andy Powers from Martin & Co, Indra Collins, manager at Nandos and Bobbie Thomas from Shiley Library turn on this year's lights. 48.014.002.sol.jm5

THE COUNTDOWN to Christmas began in Shirley as townsfolk turned out for the annual lights switch-on. Carol singing was led by the talented youngsters from Haslucks Green

Junior School before Father Christmas and the local traders who make the lights possible switched on the lights. Observer photographer Jon Mullis was on-hand to capture these images of the evening.



Left - Children from Haslucks Green Junior School get the festivities under way with some carol singing. 48.014.002.sol.jm1

Golfers in...

Shirley Christmas Lights

Right - It's all about the children... Iggle Piggle, the Nandos mascot Barci the chicken and a stiltwalking fairy all made for a fun lights switch on in Shirley. 48.014.002.sol.jm10

Below right - Sophie Lees and Ken Barker from Shirley Lions collecting for next year's event. 48.014.002.sol.jm8



Super tall fairy Vonnie Knight with little Emily Malone and Solihull Mayor Kate Wild. 48.014.002.sol.jm4

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Do they make your gums sore?
Can you eat with them comfortably?

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New Natural Looking Dentures

1484 Stratford Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, B28 9ET
Tel: 0121 745 2343
www.solihulldentureclinic.co.uk



A festive photo for this proud mum... 48.014.002.sol.jm2