



MIDLANDS NEWS

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

June 2015



This month saw the Multiple District being held in our District. A moment of intense pride when our Past DG Simon Moss joined the head table as Chair of Council elect. With only 170 odd clubs represented at the convention from a total of 700 plus, Simon will have his work cut out as the organisation needs to be awakened from the slumber it has gone into.

Balsall Common a.k.a. "The Club that never sleeps" has come back with reports of their many activities. New members, retaining old ones, inspiring the youth. It is a club we all can learn from. Knowle and Dorridge raising £40,000 with their funrun, Redditch collecting twice for Nepal and all the other clubs doing their bit for the betterment of others. We can be rightfully proud of our organisation.

I just discovered another way of earning money for our charities. I have an Ebay shop where I sell to the public a range of products. I found out that you can dedicate a percentage to a charity. I saw that a number of Lions clubs have registered and as my own club is not (yet) registered, I dedicated a neighbouring club. I'll be honest, I increased the items prices to factor in the donation, but again, this money goes to the charity account of a Lions club. We raise it from the public and it goes to the public. If a club has items to sell, start your own club shop and have 100% go to the charity account. Another way of earning money!

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

If members want to advertise, for only £10, we can place small advertisements. All funds raised for the district charity account. Over 1,000 lions will see your advert. An excellent place to advertise your holiday home, camper, old bike etc. Please contact us for details.

Last but not least, please send reports, news about forthcoming events, charter dates, newspaper clippings and anything else you think we should know about.

Acocks Green 4th Fundraising Quiz

Friday 24th April saw Acocks Green Lions' 4th fundraising quiz. 'Brain of Brum' fun quiz.

Not sure it's yet an annual event, but while people are asking for a repeat it's a great event to put on.

Thirteen teams on the night and it was not unlucky for the Errant Gnomes (Marston Green Lions) who had also won the Knowle and Dorridge Master Team earlier in the year. Looks like they need watching!!!!!!!

Little bit of a school theme in keeping with the surroundings of a school hall, the ploughmen arriving in a brown paper bag like a packed lunch, a 'show and tell' round during the interval and the booby prize worked around the traditional 1/3rd pint milk bottles.

We managed to put £511.22 into our charity account through the generosity of our attendees and the hard work of club members.

Watch out for next year's quiz maybe your Lions club can take the top spot!



Rugby Rokeby Lions Club Draycot Water walk.

The funds for local Air Ambulance service increased by £3,200 thanks to the efforts of the Rugby Rokeby Lions Club Draycot Water walk.

A fun day was enjoyed by young and old alike and a huge thank you must go to both the Club and to public for their amazing support yet again.

COOL WEATHER BRINGS QUICK FUN RUN TIMES



The serious runners liked the cool temperatures at this year's Knowle Fun Run last Sunday with most category winners times much improved on recent year's.

"It was really tough for me this year after completing the London Marathon 3 weeks ago", said runner David Hofton Director of Hunters Estate Agents who have been the Fun Runs main sponsors for 20 years. "The Lions work really hard to make a success of this great community event, they deserve all the accolades they receive."



This year's overall winner **Yousef Al-Lathaa** from Birmingham for the second year in succession, a late entry on the morning, improved on his time of last year by over 1 mins 30 secs, beat local resident Jonathon Jennings from Dorridge by a similar margin.

We had two category winners who have now won 4 years on the trot. Trevor Prickett and Jane Evans won the Super Veteran and 1st adult female trophies again, both improving on their previous times.

BBC presenter Rebecca Wood who had promised to bring sunny weather, set the runners on their way on the stroke of midday. "Rebecca proved to be a true professional, interviewing the trophy winners and selecting the Fancy Dress winners based upon their reasons for running in fancy dress", said Richard. "Together with the Hollywood Monster she

did a great job entertaining the Mini Runners and gave words of encouragement for the Fun Runners about to set out on their 2 lap run." Winners of the Fancy dress prize were Greg Hart and the Tilehouse Trotters pushing an ingenious Viking Ship alleged to have sank on the first lap.

"We were delighted to have nearly 1900 entries for this year's Fun Run & Mini Runs", said Richard. "The Lions were grateful for the continued sponsorship from many companies who helped cover the costs of staging the event. We really appreciate how lucky we are to have the support of a long list of local companies. This enables us to tell runners that every £ of entry fee, donation or sponsorship raised will go



to our nominated charities, which also included Arthritis Research UK, Knowle FC, Solihull Young Carers and other local causes. We hope to have raised over £40,000 when all the runners sponsorship has been received. As usual many runners raised funds for their own favourite charities and we shall never know how many thousands of pounds to add to that we receive, unless they tell us."

The day started well when almost 300 under 9 year olds took part in 4 Mini runs wearing their complimentary yellow Fun Run t-shirts were cheered around the Arden school fields all keen to pick up their Mars bar and certificate of achievement. The winners all received trophies & gifts courtesy of MiniRun sponsor Sytner Mini.

"It's great to be part of a team organising such a popular and successful community event," said organiser Richard.

"The Lions have been involved in the organisation of the Fun Run for 32 years now. We have to thank a large number of sponsors and nearly 200 helpers on the day without their help the Fun Run would not happen let alone raise over £40,000 for charity.

Pictures: NewBold Images

Redditch Lions

Redditch Lions have collected twice in Redditch for the recent Earthquakes in Nepal and the LIONS LIFESAVER JERRYCAN WATER APPEAL.

When the Philippines Water Appeal highlighted the usefulness of the LIFESAVER Jerrycans in these disaster situations some months ago, the Redditch Lions Club decided we should buy one from the Lifesaver Mfg out of our admin funds. We use it several times a year to give practical demonstrations at whatever Redditch Club outing / Fair / Lions Awareness day that we attend or hold. We also take it around and give talks to anyone who will listen. Like the Scouts etc.

For the Nepal appeal both times we were at the Redditch Kingfisher Shopping Centre. On our first collection on May 1st we collected over £ 1150. After the second earthquake in Nepal we went out again on our second collection which was on May 15th and we collected an additional £800. We have also very recently received £119 from the 1st Cub Scouts in Greenlands area in Redditch and we continue to receive donations from the public for NEPAL. So our total collection is £2,069 for the NEPAL LIFESAVER Jerrycan Appeal.

What must be understood is they between the two LION collections there were several other charities, organisations and even two individual collections for NEPAL in the town. (example the Redditch Rotary also collected £800 for their Shelter Tent appeal for Nepal) So the generous residents of Redditch also supported those appeals too. If I had to guess I could safely say that over £5,000 was donated in total - **all to benefit NEPAL in some way.** Congratulations to all the Redditch townspeople.

Balsall Common Lions Update



Lion Alan Douglas receives The Melvin Jones Fellowship Award

Lions Clubs world-wide recognize outstanding individuals by bestowing on them an award that is named for after its founder, Melvin Jones. This award is the highest form of recognition and embodies humanitarian ideas consistent with the nature and purpose of Lionism.

Lion President Mark Whitfield, (left) and the District Governor Ian Haffner presented Lion Alan Douglas, who is our only remaining Charter member, with The Melvin Jones Fellowship Award, for giving over 40 years of service to the community of Balsall Common.



Lion Steve Greensides

Welcome to Balsall Common Lions our newest member Steve Greensides from Burton Green.

Steve is recently retired and wanted to put something back in the community and from a chance meeting with us on our Santa sleigh run showed an interest in Lions. We are very pleased to have him on board and he will be a valuable asset to the club.



Peace Poster Shield

"Peace Poster shield as winner of the Lions District competition was presented to Angeli Fernando of Heart of England School." In the picture with Angeli are Lion Steve Meakin, Service Chairman (left) and Andrew Livingstone, Deputy Head, Heart of England School.



Young Leaders in Service Silver Award Certificates

"Balsall Common Lions Club were proud to present Young Leaders in Service Silver Award certificates to Heart of England students Rebecca Akers and Jo Brookes for achieving over 50 hours of service in the community. This is the first time Balsall Common Lions club has presented such an award, and it is hoped that many more students will

participate in the scheme."

Both Rebecca and Jo hoped to go on to complete 100 hours of Service to achieve a Gold Award.



Another Life Saving device for the Village.

St Peter's Church Hall in Balsall Common is the new home for a community public access defibrillator which will be for the benefit of both visitors to the hall and the local community. Christine Hornsby, St Peter's Church Hall Manager, said, 'We're more than happy to have a defibrillator installed as there are around 500 people a week using the hall, the church's congregation is in addition to this, as are parents who use the

car park for the school run'.

The life-saving device was funded by West Midlands Ambulance Service, and the box itself was purchased by Balsall Common Lions, and is now the third device to be installed in the village.

A fourth is due to be unveiled soon.

The picture shows, in the foreground, Christine Hornsby and Lion Brian Hornsby watched by Fastaid Community First Responders Jeff Way and Alice Hawkins and Community Response Manager Andy Jeynes



Balsall Common Lions collection for Nepal Earthquake victims

Thanks to the kindness and generosity of the people of Balsall Common, we were able to collect nearly £1,000 in the street collection, including kind donations from Village Markets and Berkswell Church Beerfest.

Balsall Common Lions will add to this amount from our existing funds to make the value in excess of £1,500, which will pay for 8 Jerry cans.

These will provide the most basic of human needs....clean

drinking water. The Jerry can is ideally suited to providing life saving relief, a constant supply of desperately needed drinkable water.

Every lifesaver unit can deliver 20,000 litres of drinkable water from "foul" water, so that's 160,000 litres of drinking water



Lion Steve Meakin, Service Chairman with Patrick

Lions celebrate St George's Day

At our recent celebration of St Georges Night, Balsall Common Lions were entertained by the very talented musical skills of Patrick Whitfield who performed a variety of music on his piano / keyboards.

At the end of the evening Patrick was presented with a **cheque for £200** which he donated to Anthony Nolan Trust, which is the UK's Blood Cancer charity and bone marrow register.

Balsall Common Lions donate to Fisher House, Birmingham



Mark Hammond, CEO Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham Charity, gave a presentation to the partners of DG's and DGE's at the Lions Multiple District Convention at the weekend, on Fisher House in Birmingham.

This is an 18 bedroom property set in the grounds of the QE Hospital, which houses the relatives and friends of Armed Forces who have sustained injuries during the course of their military activities, providing on-site accommodation only 10 minutes away from the military ward. It is totally self-funding, supported by charitable donations, costing £250,000 per year to maintain.

Mark is hoping to get 10,000 people to pledge £25 per annum to support

this worthwhile project.

The picture shows Mark Hammond (centre) receiving a cheque for £350 from Balsall Common Lions Club members Lion David Blakeman & Lion Lynda Dandy who were helpers at the MD Convention.

Balsall Common Lions help out serving Breakfast & Lunch



We were again this week back at SIFA-Fireside in Digbeth, Birmingham, the dynamic local charity working to tackle homelessness and alcohol misuse.

We helped with the regular volunteers to prepare and serve breakfast as well as lunch, serving 85 Lunches. It was a very busy morning, with all hands to the pumps, but we all enjoyed it and look forward to going along to help out again soon.



Thank you to the staff and volunteers for allowing us to assist.

SIFA-Fireside run almost entirely on charitable donations, so they are always looking for help in running the Centre. Visit their website for more information: www.sifafireside.co.uk

American Ladies Race Night



The jockeys

The Lions held a "Race with a Difference" in aid of the "Americans Overseas Domestic Violence Crisis Centre" (AODVC). The evening was organised by Lion David Hickson and Lion Ray Stephens daughter-in-law Michele Stephens who



Awaiting the big wheel

is the Vice President of the North American Connection, Solihull

(NAC). Michele has been involved with the NAC for the past 9 years raising funds for the AODVC.

Thank You to everyone who attended and taking part in the racing making it a great night, which raised £1,000.



Northampton Eighty Club

Northampton Eighty Club has committed to maintaining the garden at Northampton Mencap Boughton Centre. Raised beds have been weeded and seeds planted along with a bed of vegetable plants. Future jobs are to restore the overgrown beds, picture of work in progress, tend the lawns, keep the weeds down and paint fences.

Shirley Lions presents Induction Hearing Loop



By courtesy of his old employers Lion Martin Wright was given an induction hearing loop system to dispose of as he saw fit. The logical person to pass it on to seemed to be Lion Roger Handcock our District Speech and Hearing Officer. Although Roger is a member of



Wellingborough Lions which is nearly 70 miles away 6 club members decided to combine the hand over with a club visit. A really enjoyable visit and thanks go to our hosts for their hospitality.

Race Night

Shirley Lions members, their partners and friends recently crowded in to the Shirley Social Club for a night at the races. With a packed house the 4 Lions manning the Tote were kept extremely busy as punters patiently waited to hand over their betting money for each race and then sat back to await the outcome. As each race reached it's climax punters groaned and cheered depending on where their horse finished and then more work for the Tote operators as winnings were paid out. A thoroughly enjoyable evening was had by all present and just as importantly £1,150 was raised for club funds.

Donation to Summerfield Stables



Lion President Ken Barker, Lions Jenny McKinley and June Cassidy and volunteers Georgina and Barbara.

A number of Shirley lions recently made a visit to the local Summerfield Stables to see first-hand the work done by this largely unknown community organisation and to hand over a cheque to assist their good work. Summerfield Stables is a community group that has been established over forty-three years. Its aim is to encourage children and young people in the Yardley Wood area to understand and interact with horses. The young people who visit the stables are mostly between the ages of seven and fifteen and come from the surrounding areas. They also encourage children with both mental and physical disabilities. The organisation is not for profit, is run by volunteers and as there are no paid members of staff relies on donations and entry fees

to try and cover all costs.

Their aim is to increase the confidence and practical skills of children and young people through working with the horses, believing that working with these animals helps them to learn to follow instructions and to practice teamwork. The young people have a chance to develop leadership skills by helping others to learn and by organising activities for the younger age groups."

Forthcoming Events

Bromsgrove Lions Race Night

in aid of First Responders and other local charities on 5th June at 7.30pm.

First race will be at 8.00pm

£5 to include a Ploughman's Supper

Tickets available from 01527 832255 (answerphone)

Further details on our web site <http://www.bromsgrovelions.org.uk>

SOLIHULL LIONS CARNIVAL

Will be opened by the Mayor of Solihull
at 12 noon, on 6th June 2015
in Tudor Grange Park.

All Lions clubs will be most welcome and no charge will be
made for your stalls.

Please Contact

Paul Jolly 0121 704 3118 pauljolly4@gmail.com

25th June 2015, Dudley Lions Quiz Night

The Vine Pub

1 Dunsley Road, Kinver DY7 6LJ

7:30 at 8pm

Tickets £7.00

including food Scampi & Fries or Burger & Fries

Please contact Sue Harris 07870 546843 or Shona Jones 07886 405128

RSVP asap or by 18th June the latest.

The Briefcase Blues Brothers



NEW EVENT

Saturday 13th June

Balsall Common Lions

present

Briefcase Blues Brothers

St Peters Church Hall

Balsall Common

Tickets £12.50

(includes cold supper)

Pay Bar

To reserve your tickets

Ring Lion Ross Collins

01676 534820

07813 937921



Evesham Vale and Pershore Lions Club

We would like to invite you to an
Evening with Debbie Miles in Concert
Saturday 13th June 7.30pm
at

The Bengeworth Sports Club, Coronation Street
Evesham WR11 3DA

She is a very popular singer and will get you all Dancing
There will be some excellent raffle prizes. Entrance is £3.00 at the door

Heart of England Bike Ride 19/7



Lion Paul Wheatley and Donna Stokes as Hearty, with sponsor Tim Andrews MD of Hollywood Monster launch Heart of England Bike Ride at Packwood House

Registration is now open for this year's Heart of England Bike Ride. This well-established, popular family bike ride organised by the Knowle and Dorridge Lions will again raise funds for the British Heart Foundation (BHF) Mending Broken Hearts Appeal and local causes.

'This year will see the 10th Lions Bike Ride, the 4th in aid of BHF, from Packwood House National Trust property' says Lions organiser Paul Wheatley. 'Why not bring your bike along and enjoy a great day out on Sunday 19th July, cycling along quiet country lanes and exploring the wonderful Warwickshire countryside.'

Starting between 9.30am and 11.30am at the stunning Packwood House National Trust property, cyclists will have a choice of 13, 19 & 31 mile circular routes (20km, 30km & 50km) along country lanes in Solihull and Warwickshire. Or take on the ultimate challenge and cycle 100km by completing all three routes. Whether you're on a family day out or looking for more of a challenge, this charity fundraiser is a great opportunity to spend a Sunday with friends, family or colleagues cycling through the glorious Warwickshire countryside and villages. Get on your bike, enjoy the scenery and help fight heart disease.

Donna Stokes, local BHF Fundraising Manager said: "Last year we received great feedback from many of the 600 participants, who enjoyed the lovely atmosphere, getting fit, completing a challenge and raising over £18,000 for charity, all at the same time. After the bike ride, food will be available to purchase from the Lions BBQ and there is free entry to Packwood House and gardens. It's a great day out for everyone!"

Before the 9 July, discounted advance entry costs £10.00 Adults, £5 Children and after that date, an entry fee of £15.00 Adult and £7.50 Children applies. The entry fee covers the costs of promoting and organising the event safely and it is the sponsorship money that really makes a difference. You can register online via www.knowleanddorridgelions.com/bikeride or call 0121 661 5100 for a registration form.

The District Golf Competition

incorporating the PDG Golf Competition is again being held at Bromsgrove Golf Club on Thursday 6th August 2015 from 12.00noon. The cost is £25 to include a bacon sandwich on arrival.

Anyone wanting to play should contact PDG John Poole at
poolejoann@blueyonder.co.uk

Dudley Lions are organising an Summer Fun Day 23/8

Dudley Lions are organising an Summer Fun Day and we'd love you to join us!

We are looking for a variety of trade stalls (gift, craft)- so if you are interested drop me a line with a brief description of what you'd like to sell and I'll send you the booking form.

Thanking you in advance for your support.

Date: Saturday 23rd August 2015

Venue: Vine Pub, 1 Dunsley Road, Kinver, West Midlands, DY7 6LJ

Time: 11am until 5pm

Contact: Shona Jones, Dudley Lion

Tel: Number: 07886 405128

Email: stardustgifts@live.com

Cost: £20 per standard 3m x 3m pitch for Gazebo.

Wellesbourne and Shakespeare Lions clubs' raft race 26 July

Sheldon Lions have won the Lions Club Cup as the fastest Lions raft on the River Avon for more than a decade. More than 60 rafts enter this event each year but Sheldon have been the only Lions Club to do so. **So in 2015 why not join them and give them some competition.**

Participants in this year's Wellesbourne and Shakespeare Lions clubs' raft race are looking to raise more than £10,000 to fund specialist services at The Shakespeare Hospice's bespoke Young Persons Hub recently opened by H.R.H. Prince Charles. The race, which takes place over seven miles and across two weirs along the River Avon between Wasperton and Stratford, is on Sunday July 26. It will be the 39th running of the event, which began in 1976 and has taken place every year - apart from 2001 when it was cancelled because of the Foot and Mouth epidemic. Over the years it has raised more than £700,000 for charity.

Further information and entry and sponsorship forms visit our website: www.rafrace.org

Charters

The Birmingham Chinatown Lions Club cordially invites you to join the 28th Charter Night celebration on:

Friday 5th June 2015
Tally Ho Conference & Banqueting Centre
Pershore Road
Birmingham
B5 7RN

7.30pm for 8pm start

Ticket price: £30 per person to include
3 course meal

Nominated Charity: Birmingham Chinese Culture and Language School

For tickets, please contact:

Club Secretary: juliesohoo@hotmail.com

Club Treasurer: woobebe@hotmail.com

Sandwell Lions Club's 6th Charter Dinner

President David Smith would like to invite you to our 6th Charter Dinner

On the 6th June at Brambles in Dudley

7pm start for 7.30pm cost will be £25 per head

Please reserve your place with menu choice by contacting Rosie Eynon Sandwell Lions Club on

07577858626 or email amazonrosie@yahoo.co.uk

Places are limited so please book early and by the 17th May.

Dress code will be smart casual

Address: The Brambles

2 Priory Road

Dudley

West Midlands

DY1 1HH

Malvern Hills Lions Clubs 40th Charter Lunch

Lion President Richard invites you to join him

Sunday 7th June 2015, 12-30 pm for 1-00 pm

(Please Note the Earlier Date)

Worcestershire Golf Club, Woodfarm Road,

Malvern, WR14 4PP

Cost £22

Dress. Lounge Suits

Menu and Booking form attached

Please return booking form and Menu Choices by 10th May 2015

To Lion Geoff Lewis, by post to 12, The Orchards, Walwyn Road, Colwall, Nr. Malvern, Worcestershire,

WR13 6JZ. Email to geoff@gallion.plus.com or phone 01684 540553

Please make Cheques payable to Malvern Hills Lions Club

WELLESBOURNE & DISTRICT LIONS CLUB 43rd CHARTER ANNIVERSARY DINNER DANCE

SATURDAY 6TH JUNE, 2015

The Hampton Suite at The Charlecote Pheasant

(Charlecote, CV35 9EW)

18:30 for 19:00 start

£30 per person

To reserve your place please send a cheque with your menu choices by 27th April 2015 to Lion President
Stephen Skinner

For further information:

Lion President Stephen Skinner

2 Dovehouse Drive, Wellesbourne, Warwick, CV35 9QZ

Castle Bromwich & District Lions

are celebrating their 26th Charter Anniversary

On

Saturday 13 June 2015

At our usual venue

Wishaw Country Sports, Grounds Farm, Grove Lane
Wishaw, Sutton Coldfield, B76 9PQ
7.30 for 8pm

Cost is £25
Formal Dress preferred

We were fully booked but have had some cancellations because of another charter being arranged on the same night and some Lions double booking themselves. We do therefore have vacancies.

If you would like to attend please contact

Lion Phil White on telephone 0121 785 0392 or email philpwhite@talktalk.net

June 13th Kidderminster & District Lions Club Charter Dinner

Lion President Ron Cross invites you to join the members of Kidderminster & District Lions Club to celebrate the club's 41st Charter Anniversary. This will be held at The Brasserie Restaurant in Kidderminster. Address is 5 Lower Mill Street, Kidderminster, DY11 6UU. The time is 7 for 7.30. The cost is £25 per person.

There is ample parking in Weavers Wharf Car Park just across the road from the restaurant.

There is disabled access for those who need it. (Please ask on arrival.)

For further information linda.cross@uwclub.net

BIRMINGHAM HANDSWORTH LIONS CLUB

At

The Farcroft Hotel, Rookery Road, Handsworth, Birmingham B21 9QY

On

Saturday 27th. June 2015, 7.30 pm till late

Cost £20 per person

Full Course Indian Dinner, Music, Raffle and Late bar

Please reply to Lion Kanu Patel (07961 832916), Lion Jit Josen (07973 311653) or Lion Vikram Thakore (07802 197782)

Please note: last date for bookings Saturday 13th. June

Corby & District Lions Club Charter

Lion President Mike Garlick would like to invite

CHARTER ANNIVERSARY DINNER

On Saturday 27th June 2015

at

Best Western Rockingham Forest Hotel

Rockingham Road Corby NN17 2AE

at 19.30 - 20.00 £22.00 per person

Please reply by 14th June 2015

Lion Bipin Karsandas

34 Elizabeth Street

Corby Northants

NN17 1PN

bkarsandas@hotmail.com, Mob: 07913096070

Lions' message in a bottle delivered

AGE UK Solihull have partnered with The Solihull Lions for their 'Lions Message in a Bottle' scheme, which helps the emergency services in the event of someone being taken ill in their home.

The Lions Emergency bottle contains one form and two emergency stickers to encourage people to keep their personal and medical details, such as the medicine they are taking, on a standard form and in a common location - the fridge.

All Emergency Services are aware of the Lions Message in a Bottle initiative; they will know to look for it in the event of being called to your home and respond to your individual needs when they see the sticker.

The bottle will be passed on to a doctor or hospital personnel in an emergency.

Jayna Kawa, Age UK Solihull Fundraiser with Lions Emergency Bottles.



Lion Stephen Walker said: "We are very pleased to work in partnership with Age UK Solihull to distribute our message

in a bottle as part of our work with the Community".

Chief Executive Officer of Age UK Solihull, Anne Hastings added: "We are delighted to be working with Solihull Lions to deliver this simple idea, enabling people to keep their personal and medical details on a standard form and in a common location - the fridge!"

Free message in a bottles are available now for a limited time only, from one of the charity's three charity in Solihull Town Centre, Hobs Moat and Castle Bromwich.

For more information about both charities visit www.ageuksolihull.org.uk or www.solihulllionsclub.org.uk alternatively you can email the Solihull Lions at cross@cottage30.freeserve.co.uk

Donations to help Nepal earthquake victims praised

ANNETTE BELCHER
annette.belcher@solihullnews.com

GENEROUS Balsall Common and Berkswell residents have been digging deep to ensure the victims of the Nepal disaster have safe water to drink.

More than £1,500 has been raised by Balsall Common Lions to pay for 'lifesaver jerry cans' to be sent to the area following the devastating earthquake, which claimed the lives of over 8,000 people. The money was gathered from an organised street collection held recently.

The Lions have collected enough cash to buy eight lifesaver jerry cans, which equates to 160,000 litres of drinking water.

David Blakeman, secretary of Balsall Common Lions, said: "There are in excess of 14,000 Lions on the ground supporting the relief effort

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We want to say a huge thank you for the kind generosity of the local folk of Berkswell and Balsall Common.
DAVID BLAKEMAN

in Nepal. We want to say a huge thank you for the kind generosity of the local folk of Berkswell and Balsall Common.

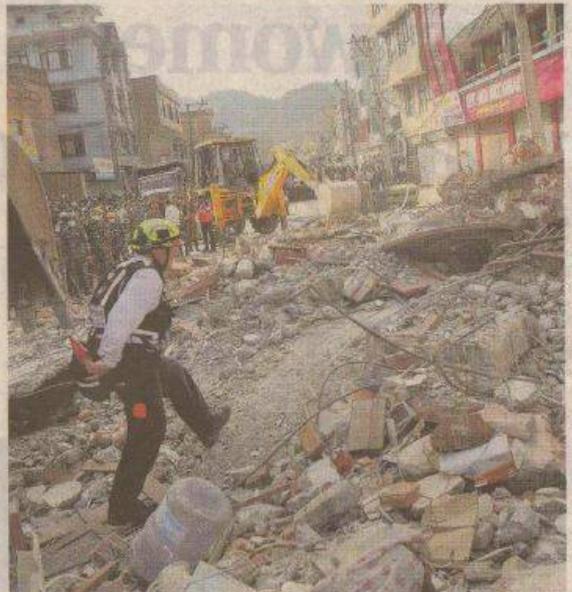
"If any member of the public would like to make a financial donation towards the International Disaster Fund, please donate to www.lionsgiving.org and click onto Lions International Disaster Fund."

The 2015 Nepal earthquake has killed more than 8,000 people and injured more than 16,000, and occurred on April 25. There was a second quake earlier this week.

It is the worst natural disaster to strike Nepal since the 1934 Nepal-Bihar earthquake.

Some casualties were also reported in the adjoining areas of India, China, and Bangladesh. Hundreds of thousands of people were made homeless with entire villages flattened, across many districts of the country.

Centuries-old buildings were destroyed at UNESCO World Heritage sites in the Kathmandu Valley, including some at the Kathmandu Durbar Square, the Patan Durbar Square and the Bhaktapur Durbar Square.



A rescue worker inspects the site of a building that collapsed in Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal, following a second earthquake earlier this week



This year's VIP guest at the Knowle fun run will be Midlands Today weather presenter Rebecca Wood. Organisers from Knowle and Dorrige Lions Dave Carter and Barry Dale join in the fun. Picture by Jon Mullis 15.015.003.sol.jm2 (www.buyphotos247.com)

Fun run VIP may be an omen for good weather

ORGANISERS of the Knowle Fun Run have revealed that BBC weather presenter Rebecca Wood is to be the VIP for this year's event.

The keen runner and lover of the outdoors will be there to fire the starting pistol, handle prize-giving and choose the winners of the fancy dress competition at the May 17 event.

"It's an honour to be asked to be a part of the Knowle Fun Run which is a

fantastic event and raises money for so many great causes," said Rebecca.

"As a weather presenter I'm hoping I can provide the perfect weather for the event."

Full details can be found at: www.knowlefunrun.org.uk

• Entry to the Fun Run closes on Tuesday, May 12 so anyone wanting to take part must get their entry in as soon as possible.

Lions set for carnival

SOLIHULL Lions have announced that the 81st Solihull Carnival will take place in Tudor Grange Park on Saturday, June 6.

This year's event start with a Chinese Lion dance and the Mayor of Solihull will open the event by waking up the Chinese lions.

There will be plenty of summer fun including a stunt bike show, Bob Wilson's Funfair and a number of stalls from noon until 5pm.

Monies raised will go to a number of charities including the Acorns Childrens Hospice which has been chosen by Solihull Lions.



Old and young alike turned out for the Fun Run.

The event is set to have raised around £40,000 for local causes.



Under starter's orders.

A run, lots of fun and £40,000

THE STREETS of Knowle were home to trainer power at the weekend as the annual Fun Run came to town.

A grand total of nearly 1,900 runners and mini runners took part in the event - some with a serious mission to win and others donning fancy dress to bolster their fundraising efforts.

The official charities set to benefit from this year's run - which is expected to raise over £40,000 - were Arthritis Research UK, Knowle FC, Solihull Young Carers, as well as a variety of other local causes.

Dave Newbold of Newbold Images was on hand to capture these images of the annual calendar highlight.



The overall winner, Yousof Al-Lahsa.



Adding a splash of colour.



Some much-needed hydration.

Meriden MP Caroline Spelman on the course.



BBC weather presenter Rebecca Wood was the event's special guest.



A few unusual warm-up exercises.