



MIDLANDS NEWS

Editor Lion Jaap de Jonge

news@lions105m.org.uk



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

May 2017



It was an incredibly busy April. Read below and you understand why. It doesn't even include our club's Charter.

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.

"Be a Hero "



The Enterprise Club will take part in the Coventry Walkathon again this year to raise funds to support their transport services

They will also be entering the Mascots Race, trying to beat a "Guinness World Record".

2018 is the Enterprise Club's 80th Anniversary year. They are planning a number of celebrations and fundraising events. They are using the hashtag 'Be a Hero' for that year so we intend to have two representatives dressed as

Superheroes on 14th May to publicise their anniversary.

The charity provides social and leisure time activities for people with physical, sensory and learning disabilities in the age range 18- 90+. The club is open 4 days and five evenings every week and offers a variety of activities: a Day Centre, Handicraft Group, Social Evenings, A twice weekly Sports Group, lunch and theatre excursions. The charity provides an accessible transport service to enable its disabled members to access the activities at the club premises and in the wider community. Sports Group members participate in sports events all over the country. The majority of their members would be unable to attend if transport was not available to them. The charity receives no statutory funding and has to raise the £90,00 required to keep the premises, vehicles and activities operating for one year. A year-long fund raising campaign is organised to include, Charity Bag Packs and Collections, raffles, a Christmas Bazaar, Summer Fair etc. We do have to accept that we would not reach our annual target without external support: grants, bequests and donations. We are taking part in the Walkathon again this year to raise funds to support our Transport Service. They are extremely grateful to Coventry Leofric Lions Club member Ken Brown who is one of our regular volunteer drivers. They are constantly appealing for new drivers, as we are always short

of volunteer. They also greatly appreciate the support received from Linda Ireland who has been assisting with our group for young adults for a number of years and also helps with their Charity Bag Packs. The charity is proud to be celebrating its 80th Anniversary during 2018, particularly as so many other groups have had to close or limit their activities due to lack of funds. Their members work very hard and enthusiastically support all of our fund raising events.

So please come and join us at this years Coventry Walkathon on the 14 May at the War Memorial Park.



Champion in the 1000m along with the 5000m Relay event. Alongside this, at the end of last year and start of this year he was able to break all of his personal best times over all of the individual distances he skated. The next step for him as we head into the Olympic season is to qualify for the Olympic team and represent the Country in the 2018 Winter Olympics in South Korea next February. We continue to wish him every success

Shirley Lions and their skater

For a number of years Shirley Lions have been helping aspiring Shirley speed skater Billy Simms by paying for his speed skates which have to be replaced at regular intervals. When we started this, Billy was just one of many youngsters with high aspirations but all his hard work and training has now paid off. Last weekend he became the British



Shirley Lions doing their bit for the environment with local schools

A couple of weeks ago and in conjunction with Solihull MBC and Haslucks Green Junior School we held a litter pick in Shirley Park. 60 school children divided up into groups of 5 or 6 and with each group supervised by a Lion did the actual litter picking. Today we again teamed up with this school for

some planting of "margin" plants around the edge of the pond at Palmers Rough in



Shirley. Because the trees in the Rough had formed a canopy over the pond the plant life on its margins had died. As the Council have now cut back the trees the time was right for some new plants. Again the school children divided up into small groups and each group supervised by a Lion planted an array of "margin" plants around the edge of the pond.

Birningham Chinatown Charter



On

Saturday 8th April 2017 the Birmingham Chinatown Lions Club held its 30th Charter and Lions Centennial celebrations in Birmingham.

This was the biggest event held in the Club's history with 280 guests.

On the night £15,000 was donated equally between The Birmingham Chinese School, Birmingham Cultural & Language School and RSVP.

Charter Members Lion Jeff Yap and Lion Joe Lee were presented with 30 year chevrons by PGD Lion Ian Haffner.

Over £6,000 was raised on the night with more to come."

Rugby Rokeby Lions



Rugby Rokeby Lions have been sponsoring the Young Volunteer of the Year Award at the Rugby Yearly Sports award in memory of a past Lion, Lion Geoff Thompson, for the past 6 years. In the picture can be seen Lion President George King presenting the Lion's trophy to this year's winner. The event is organised by Rugby Borough Council to recognise those people in the community who give so freely of their time in encouraging others in all areas of sport.

Corby & District Lions help provide an Easter Party



Our photo shows Lion President, Colin Bradshaw, presenting a cheque for £160 to representatives of Maplefields Circle of Friends. A Lion's spokesperson said, 'We were approached via our Facebook page recently and we felt we had to help fund this Easter tea party. Few of us had heard of the group so we joined them at their recent fair and spent some time with the young people and their families.'

A spokesman for Maplefields Circle of Friends said, 'We are a 'not for profit' organisation that put on activities and seasonal events for children with additional needs/disabilities and their

families, eg in the summer holidays, parties at Easter and Christmas and at Halloween. Last Halloween we helped the Friends of Coronation Park put on a sensory walk in the grounds of Coronation Park and a few activities for the children. We hold a Summer funday each year but this year it isn't financially possible as we need to secure a permanent building for ourselves and decorate it in a de-sensitised way for the children we cater for.'

MCF started off as a spin off from the school but the more we did the more we realised there was a bigger need within the town and it grew from there. We help with a home education group and raise funds for Maplefields Academy to provide a play scheme and towards an annual residential trip. We also run a support group every Tuesday morning for parents, carers and people whose lives are touched by additional needs/disability.

Presidents Simon and Jaap Cycle home from Blackpool



We set off from Blackpool bang on time, being waved off by the MD Convention on Sunday 23/4 at 10:30 with Google maps saying we had an eight hour journey of around 75 miles to get to our hotel in Newcastle under Lyme. We made good progress to Preston and on to Chorley. Somehow though, despite following the route we now had a total of 90 miles instead of 75. Nevertheless, we must thank all the local councils, the Canal Trust and National Cycle routes for providing so many

excellent paths or cycle lanes and Google maps for finding them and, in the main, keeping us off the main roads.

Jaap's chain came off at least six times and at the 70 mile mark suffered a puncture which he was able to repair. We continued along the worst paths for the last part of the routes which slowed our progress and by 9 PM we had run out of day light and both of us now had front wheel punctures. Fortunately, we had found some civilization and were able to phone a local taxi firm who had a minibus that could accommodate our bikes and get us the last six miles to our hotel.

So in all we cycled 137km or 85 miles managed to get some food, 15 minutes before the kitchen closed!

We had to fix two punctures in the morning before cycling the remaining 60 or so miles back to Birmingham.



On Monday 24/4 we started with breakfast then an hour repairing punctures. We set off just after 9 AM and soon got onto the canal towpath where Jaap's chain promptly came off. Pretty good progress until the towpath turned into a field for ten miles. At some point Jaap's back tire developed a puncture and we lost another half an hour to fix it.

At one point Google maps took us off the

canal onto country roads and then onto a dirt track and then through a wheat field and into the grounds of a country house before returning to the road and then the canal at Fradley where we stopped for lunch. The last 20 miles were tough going in parts with very little visible towpath. The path improved at Tamworth and stayed pretty good until we left the canal for the last three miles. It was around 6 PM when we reached the Welcome to Solihull sign.

Total distance 232km or 146 miles. Time 19 hours. 7500 calories burnt.

Lessons learnt

1. The idea of cycling from Blackpool to Birmingham seems more attractive than it actually is after three glasses of wine
2. Google maps is very good at finding a route for cycling but does not take account of the paths condition.
3. Thorns are sharp enough to go through Kevlar tyres.
4. Double check the distances for journey legs and allow an extra 33% time above what Google maps says
5. Cycling is fun
6. Old legs can get very tired

Thanks to all our supporters.

We have so far raised about £920 for hearing dogs for the deaf. You can still donate at

<https://mydonate.bt.com/events/blackpoolbirmingham>



Toys for Balsall Common Library



We were very pleased to be able to help when Balsall Common Library approached us to provide some toys. These will be used in the regular weekly activities in Tales & Time to Play & Rhyme Time, where rather just read stories, nursery rhymes and sing songs the children can play with these and interact even more with each other. The picture shows Committee Service Chairman, Lion Steve Meakin with Senior Library Assistant Kelly Shrimpton. Kelly said the toys will make a big difference to the children.



The results of The Balsall Commons Lions Bulb Planting Team last December. We must have planted some upside down!!

I don't think we will be getting a call from the Chelsea Flower Show Committee this Year.

Richard's Riding for Prostate Cancer



We were pleased we could make a donation to local man Richard Murray who is cycling with 500 other Cyclists for PROSTATE CANCER from London to Amsterdam over 2 days starting on Friday 9th June. The first day will be cycling 83 miles to Harwich, the next 73 miles to Amsterdam.

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men. One in eight men will get prostate cancer, while the odds for black men are just one in four.

If you wish to support Richard you can do so via www.justgiving.com/Richard-Murray7

The picture shows Committee Service Chairman, Lion Steve Meakin with Richard. We wish him and all the other Cyclists the Best of Luck.

Don't forget 20th May 'The Day to Remember' Balsall Common Lions Prostate Screening.

Coventry Mercia Lions Club Lion President attends 10 Downing Street



At the invitation of the Prime Minister, Coventry Mercia Lions President Ravinder Sandhu attended a reception at 10 Downing Street on Tuesday 18th April 2017.

Fifty dignitaries from all over the country enjoyed drinks and appetisers on the same day that Teresa May announced the General Election.

In attendance were representatives from the armed forces, ambassadors, captains of industry and community leaders.

After networking and having their official photographs taken, guests were provided a brief tour of the one hundred room Georgian building which included several elegant state rooms and a grand staircase adorned with portraits of previous Prime Ministers.

Later, the Home Secretary, Amber Rudd, joined the reception and chatted with guests before making an inspiring speech about leadership, community cohesion and charitable work.

The highlight of the afternoon was a short meeting with the Prime Minister

who took time out of her busy schedule to meet with those in attendance.

In Memoriam

Solihull Lions Club are sad to announce the passing away of **Lion Don Helliwell**. Don leaves behind wife Pat and children John and Karen who had cared for him during a long illness. A very respected member of the club served as President in 1979/80 after joining in November 1972 during the early days of the formation of the club. He served in most official club capacities with distinction and acted as the Lions link officer with the City of Birmingham police force during the very successful Lions International Convention of 1998

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Forthcoming Events



You could have 2 free return flights plus £300 spending money for just the price of a £1.00 ticket in the Bromsgrove Lions Raffle

Any Jet 2 destination from Birmingham or East Midlands airport

T/C's APPLY

Bromsgrove Lions Club's Grand Summer Raffle is now underway and will be drawn on Monday 4th September. Tickets cost £1.00 each or £5.00 per book and are available from Bromsgrove Lions Club.

Northampton Lions Fashion Show

Friday 5th May at 7:30pm

To supply Leroy Lions to Northampton A&E Dept and Children's Paediatric Ward Northampton General Hospital

Cost £5 per person

Bar available Wootton Community Centre



Great Spec-Collect 2017



Throughout Spring Knowle and Dorridge Lions want your old spectacles

Working with their sister Lions Club in Chichester your old pairs of used glasses will be collected, sorted and distributed as far as eye clinics in Papua New Guinea, Ghana, Nigeria and Nepal.

Don't worry if your spectacles are broken because they will be recycled for their scrap metal and the funds used to support eye related projects both in the U.K. and overseas

Knowle and Dorridge Lions are being supported by our local opticians:-

Alan Tyler in Dorridge

Bannisters Eyecare in Knowle

Vision Express in Knowle



Please take your old glasses to any of these opticians until 31 May

Also on Sunday 21 May at the **Knowle Fun Run** bins will be available for you to drop in your old specs

So please start searching those drawers and let us make Spring the

Great Spec-Collect

SANDWELL LIONS TREASURE HUNT SUNDAY 14TH MAY

1:00pm start from car park located On St Kenelm's Road Romsley Halesowen West Midlands B62 0PG (by Romsley Country Store)

distance is approx. 20 miles. expected duration 2 hours.

the route will take you on a nice drive around the Clent Hills and surrounding area.

cost: adults: £2 children (under 16): free or £5 per car.

prizes for the winning team.

finish will be at a pub where meals can be purchased.

please contact Nick or Jackie on 07817 382672 or shaw8avfc@gmail.com to reserve your place

Join the Worlds Largest Mascot Race

The Coventry Leofric Lions are attempting to break the current Guinness World Record which stands at 125

This will take place before the Coventry Leofric Lions annual 'Coventry Walkathon' event at the War Memorial Park

11:00am - Sunday 14th May

For further information go to leofriclions.org.uk
or email: walkathon@leofriclions.org.uk



Prizes donated to the winners of the MASCOTS 1km run for their own nominated charity or good cause

**Entry Fee:
£5.00**





COVENTRY Walkathon 2017

Will you take up the challenge?

Enrol now at leofriclions.org.uk

Over the last 21 years the Coventry Walkathon has raised over £251,000 for local charities and good causes.

Personalised entry forms and sponsorship forms available online.

Posters and leaflets available online.

We'll link your organisation to our website to promote the Coventry Walkathon.

Space for you to pitch a tent, providing a focal point for your walkers and a place to promote your activities.

Fancy dress competition with prizes for teams and individuals.



 Find us on
Facebook



Coventry Walkathon 2017 is sponsored by



BBC
COVENTRY &
WARWICKSHIRE



Organised by
Coventry Leofric Lions Club



Coventry Leofric Lions Club Charity No. 1128691

Balsall Common Lions Club
present
Brassneck Ceilidh Band
(An English Country Dance Band)
on
Saturday 20th May 2017
7.30pm for 8.00pm
Tickets £12.50
(includes Supper)
Licensed Bar
at
St Peter's Church Hall, Balsall Common, CV7 7EA
For Tickets contact Lion Ross Collins
01676 534820 / 07813 937921



34th KNOWLE FUN RUN
21st May 2017

New extended runs... 5k - 1 lap
Fun Run and Mini Runs
10k - 2 laps

Help raise funds for

BIRMINGHAM ST MARY'S your hospice **PROSTATE CANCER UK** **mnd**
motor neurone disease association

& local causes

Organised by

KNOWLE & DORRIDGE LIONS CLUB
Registered charity No. 509993

Entries now open at
www.knowlefunkrun.org.uk
Arden Academy, Knowle, Solihull



CHINATOWN LIONS CLUB SUMMER QUIZ

IN AID OF THE DG PARTNERS APPEAL
School for Blind and Partially sighted children in Ndola, Zambia

TEAMS MAX OF 6
£5.00 PER HEAD
FOOD INCLUDED

TUESDAY 13 JUNE 2017 7PM

AT
EDMUND'S BREWHOUSE
106-110 EDMUND STREET BIRMINGHAM B3 2ES

To book please contact
Lion President Stewart Sherman-Kahn
07973 833 519
stewart@chamberlainssurveyors.co.uk



Worcester Lions Club Charity Number 510331

Presents



The Chivenor Military Wives Choir



As featured on BBC's The Choir: Military Wives

Armed Forces Day – Saturday 24th June 2017 – 7:30pm

Huntingdon Hall, CrownGate, Worcester, WR1 3LD (Sat Nav
WR2 2ES)

Raising Funds for various Forces Charities

Tickets £17.50 Concessions £15.00

From Worcester Live Box Office 01905 611427
or

<http://www.worcesterlive.co.uk/boxoffice.asp>

2 Days of Fabulous 20th Century Musical Memories 24+25 November

As I am sure you will have seen from the Lion Magazine 'Sounds of a Century' is off and running. The entertainment is different each evening, menus have been agreed with the 'New Dock' [they will be different on each night] and Mandy has done a magnificent job in putting everything together in terms of flyers, design etc.

In summary:

Friday

Dinner: 6 hours of entertainment including 3 course meal: **Only £65.**

Saturday

Afternoon Tea plus 2 hours of entertainment: **Only £25.**

Dinner: 6 hours of entertainment including 3 course meal: **Only £65.**

Saturday Package: Afternoon Tea & Evening meal: **Only £80.**

Weekend Package: All 3 musical events, including entertainment and meals: Exceptional Value at Only £135.

2 Days of Fabulous 20th Century Musical Memories Featuring Top Tribute Performances

A booking form for tickets will be available at Convention, in Blackpool; book a table for a Club night out or a weekend away.

MDHQ advise they have already received enquiries from Lions wishing to book tickets.

CHARTERS

Kidderminster & District Lions Club

Lion President Jackie Williams invites you to

43rd Annual Charter Dinner

at the

La Brasserie

5, Lower Mill Street, Kidderminster DY11 6UU

On

6th May 2017, 7.30 for 8.00pm

Dress Code Black Tie or Dark Lounge Suit Please

Booking with Menu Choices to jackard@jackard.plus.com or 01568 614089 by 22nd April 2017

Lions Club Of Coventry Mercia

Lion President Ravinder Sandhu & members of Mercia Lions Club would like to invite you to our 4th Charter Anniversary

On Saturday 13th May 2017

7.00pm for 7.30 pm

at The Village Hotel

Dolomite Avenue, Coventry Business Park

Coventry

CV4 9GZ

£30.00 per person

(wines, spirits & soft drinks provided by Mercia Lions)

Dress: Black Tie/Lounge suit

Cheques payable to Lions Club of Coventry Mercia c/o Sachdev & Co, 5 Albany Road, Earlsdon, Coventry CV5 6JQ or alternatively, pay directly into the account detailed below:

Name: Lions Club of Coventry Mercia

Bank: Barclays

Sort Code: 20-23-60

Account No: 33473147

Reference: [your club/organisation name]

Contact: Lion Anita Bedi (Region Chair) – 07904 474441

Lion Dr Rakesh Sachdev (Director) – 07904 344490

Lion Omkar Singh Hunjan (IPP) – 07831 673291

Lion Terlochan Singh Karir (VP) – 07956 892190

Lion President Ravinder Sandhu – 07989 498121

THURNBY LIONS CLUB

Vice President Lion Bharat Patel & members of Thurnby Lions Club would like to invite you to our 9th Charter Anniversary lunch

On Sunday, 14th May 2017
12.30pm for 13.00 pm

at Spice of India
1155 Melton Road, Syston, Leicester LE7 2JS

£20.00 per person

Dress: Black Tie/Lounge suit

Cheques payable to Thurnby Lions Club, C/o Lion Mahendra Trivedi, 35 Marfitt Street, Leicester LE4 6RP or alternatively, pay cash on the day.

Contact: Lion Bharat Patel – 07505 265806
Lion Neelesh Patel – 07977 498461
Lion Mahendra Trivedi – 07583 116848

Solihull Lions Club Centenary Charter Lunch

Sunday 14th May 2017 at 12-00 noon for 12-30pm

Held at the West Warwickshire Sports Club Grange Club Grange Road Olton Solihull West Midlands B91 1DA

The cost of the Lunch is £20

For more details:

Stephen Walker: sjwalker@consultant.com

ALDRIDGE & DISTRICT LIONS CLUB

Lion President Diane Price would like to invite you to our 28th Charter Anniversary on 20th May 2017 @ Druids Heath, Golf Club, 7 for 7.30pm

Please contact for further information: Lion Mike Barker, 12 Heygate Way, Aldridge, WS9 8SD or
mikeb@lions105m.org.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.

Malvern Hills Lions Club

are pleased to invite you to join them to celebrate the Club's 42nd Charter Anniversary at the Worcestershire Golf Club set in the beautiful Malvern Hills.

We offer a scrumptious lunch, an excellent venue with wonderful views and plenty of level and accessible parking, and fine fellowship with Malvern Hills Lions, their friends and family.

Please return the attached booking form and cheque to Lion Secretary Heather Jeavons at hadjeavons@aol.com by May 22nd indicating your choices, and any specific menu requirements.

Malvern Hills Lions Club 42nd Charter Lunch.
Sunday 4th June 2017 12-30 pm for 1-00 pm
Worcestershire Golf Club, Woodfarm Road, Malvern WR14 4PP.
Dress. Lounge Suits.
£22.50 per head

Lion President Sharan Walia and Club Members

invite you to
LIONS CLUB OF COVENTRY GODIVA
23RD CHARTER LUNCH
ON SUNDAY 7th MAY 2017
AT FEAST JUNCTION
HERTFORD PLACE
COVENTRY CV1 3LZ
between 1pm to 6pm
INDIAN BUFFET LUNCH
Tickets £20
Dress code smart casual
Please join us for a casual and fun event
Contact Jay Dattani at jmdattani@aol.co.uk
or on 07980015656

DROITWICH LIONS CLUB

Lion President Grahame and Helen invite you to our
CHARTER DINNER
On Friday 9th June 2017
To be held at -
The Crown & Sandys
Main Road
Ombersley, WR9 0EW
At 7:00 for 7:30
Dress code Formal
£25 per person

Lion Dave Sherwen, dave.sherwen@tiscali.co.uk

LIONS CLUB OF COVENTRY GODIVA

PRESENT

CHARITY DINNER & DANCE
ON SATURDAY 17th JUNE 2017
6pm to 11.30pm
at
SAPPHIRE BANQUETING SUITE
243 CROSSROADS, COVENTRY, CV6 5GP

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3 COURSE INDIAN MEAL
BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS EXCEPT BEERS

ADULTS £20 CHILDREN UNDER 16 £10
UNDER 5 FREE

For tickets please contact
Lion Anita 07951881211
Lion Davinder 07805610428

Rugby Rokeby Lions Club

Lion President George King

Invites you to the 49th Charter Anniversary

With entertainment from The Belladors

Sunday 18th June 12.30pm -1.00pm

Draycote Hotel Ltd
London Road
Thurlaston
Warwickshire
CV23 9LF

Dress Code - Lounge suits

£25.00 a head

Please rsvp to
Lion John O'Rourke 01788 568217 or orourke56@btinternet.com

IN THE PAPERS

Lions praise youngsters for setting a gold standard

THREE community-minded students at The Sixth Form College, Solihull have received awards from Shirley Lions for their voluntary work.

Fareed Mohammed, Lauren Hodges-Edwards and Mohsin Shabir each got Gold Awards for completing 100 hours of community service.

Fareed volunteered as a cricket coach to get his award, while Lauren worked in a charity shop and went on a volunteering trip to The Gambia with the College and Mohsin volunteered at his local mosque. All three students contributed to their local communities in a very positive way.

Jaap De Jonge, president of Shirley Lions, came into college with colleagues Jacqueline Culliford and Karen Barker from the Youth Committee to present the awards to the students.

Shirley Lions Club, which formed in 1977, is part of Lions Club International, which is the largest service club organisation in the world, with 1.3 million members in 208 countries.

Members volunteer their time for humanitarian and community causes.

The college encourages students to complete voluntary work to boost their applications or employment and university and to develop important skills that will aid them in later life.

One way is by joining the college's Team Gambia project, which sees students raising money for an impoverished school in The Gambia and then volunteering in the school for a week.

Other ventures include The Big Sleep Out which involves students sleeping outside on campus under cardboard and plastic sheeting to raise money for St Basil's homeless charity.

The college also rewards students for volunteering and work experience via the Career Passport which leads to Bronze, Silver and Gold awards.

This scheme encourages students to develop the skills that employers and looking for by way of work experience, internships and voluntary work, which the scheme classifies as Professional Development Activities.

College assistant principal Mike Padbury said: "Well done to Fareed, Lauren and Mohsin on their achievement of completing 100 hours of volunteer work.

"We thank Shirley Lions for recognising the students' achievements as they have done and hope this will encourage more students to participate in the future."



Fareed Mohammed, Lauren Hodges-Edwards and Mohsin Shabir receive their Gold Awards for voluntary service. (s)



Anya with her sisters Erin (left) and Ciara.

Community unites to fund Anya's dream

BY SAM JACKSON
sam.jackson@ejpress.co.uk
@teamcourier

A four-year-old Kenilworth girl who struggles with her mobility is 'very happy' after being donated a specialist trike to give her more independence.

Anya O'Callaghan received the £1,500 Theraplay tricycle after Kenilworth Lions and Kenilworth Round Table agreed to match each other's donations towards its cost.

Anya is registered disabled, and cannot walk without the assistance of a walking frame.

But thanks to her new trike, she is now able to go outdoors much more with her parents Julie and John, as well as her two older sisters, Ciara, 10, and Erin, six.

Anya can either ride the trike independently, be pushed along or can attach the trike to her parents' bikes and be towed along.

Mum Julie said Anya has adapted to her new trike very quickly, and often bangs on the garage door at her home in Bullimore Grove in excitement when she wants to use it.

Julie added: "She uses the trike every single day - it's so good for her muscles and she absolutely adores it. She's a very happy child at the moment."

"Being outdoors and doing the same as her sisters

has definitely improved her outlook on everything."

After hearing of another family the Lions supported through donations, Julie applied to the organisation for funding.

Her application was accepted, and the Lions contacted the Round Table to see if they would match their funding.

The y agreed, meaning the family only had to pay for a third of the trike's cost.

Julie said the timing of the donation from the Lions and Round Table was 'brilliant' as it was getting harder for the family to take her out as Anya

grew older.

She said: "We were getting to the point where she couldn't go on the back of our bikes any more because she's too heavy. Someone always had to stay behind to look after her."

The trike is adjustable, so Anya will still be able to use it for at least three more years as she grows.

And Julie said she may trade in the trike for a bigger one Anya after that time if Anya still needs one.

This would also allow the old trike to be used for the benefit of another child.

Julie also thanked the generosity of Kenilworth Lions and Round Table to help pay for the trike, after admitting she was 'astonished' by its cost.

She said: "It's incredibly generous and we're so grateful for that."



GIVING ANYA A NEW LEASE OF LIFE

■ Community funds help buy four-year-old girl a specialist trike that helps her overcome her mobility problems

BY SAM JACKSON
sam.jackson@express.co.uk
facebook.com/kenilworthweeklynews

Kenilworth girl Anya O'Callaghan is all smiles after being donated a specialist trike to help with her mobility problems.

Her family were donated two-thirds of the trike's £1,500 cost by voluntary organisations Kenilworth Lions and Kenilworth Round Table.

Anya's mother Julie said she 'absolutely adores' the trike and it has allowed her to spend more time outdoors.

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Lions gifts to wards a roaring success

A pride of lions has been donated to the children's wards at Northampton General Hospital thanks to the generosity of the Northampton Lions Club.

The club has donated 300 toy lions as part of the international organisation's centenary year celebrations.

Club members of Northampton Lions chose to donate 300 Leroy the Lions so that children receiving treatment would have a small cuddly toy who can become their friend in a time of need.

Young patients will be allowed to keep their lion and to take him home after their visit to hospital, to with them to help with their recovery.

Now the club has plans to continue to raise funds to provide more of the toys to help even more boys and girls when they are at their most frightened and unsure.



Northampton Lions Club members delivered 300 cuddly lions which will be given to NGH's young patients

Northampton Lions is one of the 46,000 clubs in over 200 countries and geographic areas worldwide that constitute Lions Clubs International (LCI), making it the world's largest service club organisation with 1.35 million members.

bers.

Established in 1917, the LCI has challenged each club to mark their centenary year by coming up with a project to help their local community.

Northampton Lions Club's recent work includes distrib-

uting food parcels to older people in need and providing resources for local homeless support group The Hope Centre. To find out more about Northampton Lions, visit www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/northamptonuk



Listers marketing manager Seb Morgan-Giles, Head of Listers business Karl Sollis, Lions president Richard Buckley and children Jenson Ayres, and Kyle and Cassey Lewis get ready to take on the Knowle Fun Run. 16.017.004.sol.jm1

RUNNERS are being called upon to pull on their running shoes and take part in the revamped Knowle Fun Run on May 21.

After 33 years the organisers, Knowle and Dorridge Lions, have bowed to pres-

sure from runners and modernised the former five-mile run route, giving all ages the choice of running one 5km lap or two laps totalling 10km around Knowle.

Organiser Lion Bob Thurtle, said: Plans for the day are coming together well.

"Finding new sponsors each year is not easy and we are indebted to Listers Jaguar and Land Rover for stepping up to sponsor the KIDStruns."

"We hope that mums and dads from all over Solihull will enter their five-to-nine-year-olds for our successful four runs for children in school years 1 through 4."

"Every entrant is a winner as all the kids receive a free royal blue T-shirt on the day, as well as certificates of achievement, water bottle and chocolate bar as they finish."

This year's Knowle Fun Run will raise funds for Lions nominated charities - Prostate Cancer UK, Motor Neurone Disease Association, Birmingham St Mary's Hospice and local causes.

As every year the Lions are looking for non-runners to help as marshals or even to join our club to ensure the future success of the event.

Call Lion President Richard Buckley a call on 0845 335894 or email 2317@knowlefunkrun.org.uk today.

To enter visit www.knowlefunkrun.org.uk



Sheepdogs
herding ducks will
be one of the
features at the
carnival. (s)

Carnival fun set to return

SHIRLEY Carnival is back - hoping to be 'bigger and better' than ever before - with a old time theme for this year's calendar highlight.

The annual Shirley Lions-organised event will be descending on Shirley Park on Saturday, July 9.

The Lions are appealing for businesses across the borough to lend them a helping hand with sponsorship to make the town's annual carnival bigger and better than ever.

Carnival Chairman, Jeremy Lee said: "Shirley Lions have been organising Shirley Carnival for over 35 years and unfortunately the costs incurred in staging the event get greater and greater each year."

"Without the help of local businesses we simply could not run the event."

"There are several opportunities to promote your business through the Carnival, such as an advert in the programme, sponsoring the stalls or sponsoring one of the arena events booked to appear on the big day."

Jeremy also announced that this year the Carnival would have

Morris Dancers are set to entertain the crowds. (s)

a charity or business or have a stall.

For more on how to become a sponsor or to book a Carnival stall, contact Lion Jeremy on 0845 833 9547 or visit www.shirleylions.co.uk



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Lions roar²¹ back with 140-mile cycle ride

Express & star

Thursday, April 27, 2017

Two Midlands members of a national organisation cycled from Blackpool to Birmingham in aid of charity.

Simon Moss and Japp De Jonge from Birmingham arrived in the city on Monday.

They attended the annual convention of Lions Clubs of England Scotland, Wales and Ireland which was held in the seaside town on Saturday – and cycled back.

Their journey was more than 140 miles which raised funds for charity Hearing Dogs for the Deaf.

Simon is president of Marston Green Lions Club and Jaap is president of Shirley Lions Club.

Trevor Jones, President of Wolverhampton Lions Club said: "We are very proud of these fellow Lions for undertaking this arduous bike ride event to help raise funds for such a worthy cause as part of the Lions centennial challenge, another group of Lions also run the London Marathon to raise funds for Lions charities, we congratulate them all."