



MIDLANDS NEWS

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'ISTANBULORBUST' raises £11,000

Bob Tench and Mark Stokes spent 35 days at the height of last summer's heat-wave, cycling from the Marie Curie Hospice in Solihull to Istanbul in Turkey. Averaging 80 miles a day, they each completed a 2,635 mile trans-continental cycling marathon that took them through 12 countries and followed the route of the River Danube for much of the way.

From the outset their aim was to raise £10,000 for the Solihull Hospice and as at the end of April that figure had been well exceeded. Indeed on Friday 9th May Solihull's Mayor Joe Tildesley presented a cheque for £11,014.85 to the Marie Curie Solihull Hospice on behalf of Shirley Lions Club and the 'Istanbulorbust' bike team.

Eight months after completing the ride, Bob and Mark have had time to reflect on their experiences. Mark (a member of Shirley Lions Club) said, "For both of us this was the most gruelling and arduous experience of our lives. The heat was our biggest enemy and despite drinking a litre of fluids every hour we each lost a massive amount of weight – sadly all now put back on! But most importantly, the people we met were along the way overwhelmingly generous and welcoming. And none of the money raised went to finance the trip, which we paid for out of our own pockets."

Details and photos of the quest can be viewed at BlogSpot, www.istanbulorust2013

Picture show Shirley Lions President Gillian Conlon and Mayor Joe Tildesley presenting the cheque for £11,014.85 to Fundraising Manager Tracey Finegan. From left to right: Mark Stokes, Gillian Conlon, Joe Tildesley, Tracey Finegan, Bob Tench and Liz Cottier.



Heart of England Bike Ride

Enjoy a great day out on the Sunday 20th July, join hundreds of cyclists for this year's Heart of England Bike Ride organised by Knowle and Dorridge Lions, this year from Packwood National Trust House. Choose between 13, 19 or 31 miles (20, 30 or 50km) circular sign-posted routes along quiet country lanes through pretty Warwickshire villages, and help raise funds for British Heart Foundation.

Please visit www.knowleanddorridgelions.com/bikeride where you can find out how to register online for what is bound to be an excellent day out in the countryside with the option of visiting the beautiful historic Packwood House and gardens free and having a picnic from the Lions hog roast after your ride.

Get fit, stay active, have fun 

 **CYCLE FOR HOPE** 

Heart of England Bike Ride 2014 - Sunday 20 July

Start: between 9.30am - 11.30am
Location: Packwood House (National Trust), Lapworth, Solihull

To register, visit: bhf.org.uk/hoebikeride2014 or call 0300 330 3322
For more information, visit: knowleanddorridgelions.com/bikeride

Advance registration fee: £10 adult | £5 children
On the day: £15 adult | £7.50 children
Choose from 3 routes: 13, 19 or 31 miles

The Heart of England Bike Ride is organized by Knowle & Dorridge Lions in aid of The British Heart Foundation with 20% of the proceeds retained for Lions local causes.

FIGHT FOR EVERY HEARTBEAT
bhf.org.uk

Organised by **Knowle & Dorridge LIONS CLUB**

British Heart Foundation 2014, a registered charity in England & Wales (238771) and Scotland (SC039329) Registered charity No. 508993



Marston Green clean up

Marston Green & District Lions did the first of their two annual litter collections in Marston Green on 17th May. Because of other commitments there were only four Lions - President Geoff Matthews, accompanied by Heather Lee, Wim & Pauline Hoogerwerf - plus one local volunteer. Although only a small group, they collected about ten bags of rubbish. In addition, they chatted to people along the way and, as they were wearing bright yellow tabards they showed Lions working in the community.

Picture shows PDG Lion Heather Lee taking a well deserved break in the shade.



**Southam & District Lions Club
Poetry Competition 2014**
FUNDED BY SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL & SOUTHAM LIONS

We are pleased to announce details of the 6th Annual Poetry Competition
Entries will be accepted from June 1st and the closing date is October 10th 2014

Entry is free and the competition is open to all residents (any age)
of Southam and District.

Up to 3 poems on any topic - maximum length 40 lines - may be entered.

Prizes will be awarded at the 'AWARDS EVENING' to be held in Mid November 2014 –details to follow

CATEGORIES FOR ENTRIES

Children – Key Stage 1
Key Stage 2
Key Stage 3 & 4

Entry Forms are available from the Acorns Charity Shop in Southam and from Southam Library

Send your poems with entry form to:-
Lion Dave Richards: 15 Mayfield Road, Southam CV47 0JX

Alternatively:-

Put it in the box at Acorns Charity Shop, High St. Southam

Or enter on line at: www.southamlions.org.uk or southampoeetry@gmail.com

Good Luck!

Kenilworth Lions partake of some gentle sport

Kenilworth Lions recently took part in a sporting evening learning how to play croquet. It is not a game for gentlemen despite the look of the game and it is not easy but the general consensus of the Lions was that all enjoyed the evening. If any other Clubs are interested in learning to play the game please contact PDG Lion Henry Woodgate who will check out if something can be arranged.



Travelling Lion

Whilst on holiday in Yosemite National Park, California in May, Lion Ken Barker of Shirley Lions met up with two local Lions Clubs organising very different events. At Bass Lake the local Lions were holding their annual antique and classic boat show. Some 35 restored motorboats from the 1930's up the 1960's were on display. Once introductions had been made Lion Ken was asked to help judge the "best in show". During conversation it turns out that Lions in 4 A1 are very similar to Lions in 105M as they also organise pensioner's parties, summer fetes, auctions and Easter & Christmas collections. Whilst they can of course guarantee sunshine for their summer events not so for their Christmas collection as the last time they saw snow in Bass Lake was 1989. Ken presented them with a Shirley Bannerette and in turn was presented with a Bass Lake Lions pin and Boat Show t shirt. Then met up with Yosemite Lions who were organising a blood donation day at the Visitor Centre. Before retiring Lion Ken was the Regional Planning Manager for the National Blood Service so a real "Busman's Holiday"



GLORIOUS WEATHER HAILS SUCCESSFUL FUN RUN

The hot and sunny weather brought Knowle residents out in their thousands to cheer on the runners in this year's Knowle & Dorridge Lions 31st Knowle Fun Run. 'It was really tough this year, especially with the sun blazing down on us all the way twice round the course' said runner Director David Hofton from main sponsors Hunters Estate Agents. '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 Allataa from Birmingham, a late entry on the morning, beat local resident Zac Nolan by a close margin. We had two hat-tricks this year – Trevor Prickett 1st Super Veteran and 1st adult female Jane Evans both recorded their third wins in 3 years. Pleased with her time in the heat Jane said 'few runners will have managed a PB (personal best) this year due to the heat'

Organiser Noel Kinahan said 'Fortunately we had extra water in store for our next fundraiser – the Heart of England Bike Ride on 20 July, and with residents setting up water stations around the course runners were able to take on extra fluids.' Don Maclean, set the runners on their way on the stroke of midday. 'We are grateful to one of our nominated beneficiaries, Northleigh House school, who offered to invite Don along', said Noel. 'Together with the Hollywood Monster he 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. He is a true professional and really nice guy'.

'We were delighted to have over 2000 entries for this year's Fun Run & Mini Runs' said Noel. '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 VisionCare, The Brain Tumour Charity and other local causes. We hope to have raised over £40,000 when all the runners sponsorship has been received. 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'

The day started well when 250 under 9 year olds took part in 4 Mini runs wearing their complimentary Fun Run t-shirts were cheered around the Arden school fields all keen to pick up their Mini bar and certificate of achievement. The winners all received trophies & gifts courtesy of MiniRun sponsor Sytner Mini.

'It's great to have a team organising such a popular and successful community event,' said President Noel. 'It takes well over 6 months effort for some of our Lions and 200 helpers on the day, we now have to thank so many people, too many to mention here, who helped to ensure the day went off without a hitch.

The full results and photo gallery can be viewed on www.knowlefunrun.org.uk
You can watch a video of the event at: <http://www.knowlefunrun.org.uk/watch-the-video/>



More travelling Lions

A visit was recently made to Barnsley Lions Club by members of Marston Green & District Lions Club. President Geoff Matthews and his wife Rose, together with Lions Wim and Pauline Hoogerwerf went to Barnsley Lions Club's 48th Charter Anniversary, to support one of their members, Tim Lewis, who is now living and working in Barnsley. Tim is in the process of transferring to Barnsley Lions Club and the Marston Green members thought they would like to support him and his new Club. It was a very pleasant evening and everybody was made very welcome. The only downside was the Bank Holiday traffic on the M1 - in both directions!



An evening of Motown Magic

On Saturday 17th May Balsall Common Lions organised an evening of Motown Magic with Jackie Marie. It was a great success, with many people dancing the night away. As with all Lions events a raffle was held during the evening raising £225 which will be put towards the Lions Prostate Screening programme later this year on Saturday 4th October.

As always a big Thank You to all that attended and helped make it a great night.



Coventry Godiva Lions 20th Charter Celebration

Coventry Godiva Lions 20th Charter celebration took place on 17th May 2014 at the Days Hotel in Coventry with 78 attendees. Guests included the District Governor, Lion Simon Moss, Lion Christine Moss, various Lions from across the District and a number of the City's dignitaries.

During the evening DG Lion Simon presented twenty year chevrons to the Charter Members of Godiva Lions whilst Lion President Rani Saund presented cheques to various charities that the Lions had supported. These included £2,001 to University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire, £2,501 to Roko

Cancer MK Trust and £1,001 to Divinity Foundation Kenya. Other smaller donations were made to Lion Christine's charity "Mee & Dee" and the Lady Godiva Trust.

Following the three course meal and the presentations the evening continued with entertainment of dance performance.



Balsall Common bang the drum for Sands

As a Fellowship event Balsall Common Lions celebrated St George's Night and invited along a Lady Drummers Band who played on behalf of the Charity Sands (Stillbirth and neonatal death Charity). The Drumming was organised by DRUMVoice who played powerful rhythms of West Africa and educated us on the many instruments used to create the polyrhythms of West African percussion.

It was a great fun evening especially when some of the Lions were allowed to have a go!

Lion Andy Pemberton and President Ray Stephens presented Liz Brown from Solihull Branch of Sands with a cheque for £200 for the Charity.



Coventry Walkathon

Grey weather did not dampen the spirits of over 200 participants that took part in the 19th annual Coventry Walkathon held at Coventry's War Memorial park on Sunday 11th May. Walkers of all ages took on the challenge of the 1.75 mile long circuit of the park to raise much needed funds for their own charities.

Coventry Leofric Lions Club is hoping that at least another £10,000 will be added to the £210,000 raised during the history of the event. The colourful spectacle was aided by the fancy dress costumes donned by

the walkers as they strolled around the course for as many circuits as they wished. Councillor Gary Crookes, the Lord Mayor of Coventry sent the walkers on their way at 11.00 am after he, together with his Lady Mayoress, Councillor Shirley Crookes and BBC Coventry and Warwickshire radio presenter, Vic Minett had judged the age group fancy dress competitions and awarded prizes of four person day passes to Drayton Manor Theme Park to the winners.

The largest team in fancy dress were the Coventry Figure Skating Club who brought 34 walkers dressed as Disney's Dalmatians led by three Cruella De Vils. The Skating Club have been great supporters of the event for the last four years and this year they chose the Teenage Cancer Trust as their nominated charity. Leofric Lions added £100 to the collection as a prize for the biggest team in fancy dress.

Leofric organiser, Reg Brown, was pleased by the turnout considering the weather but would still like to see many more people taking part, "we have the infrastructure in place to help many more people raise much needed funds for their nominated charities and we hope that numbers will increase next year. I would like to thank the Coventry Building Society, Coventry City Council, BBC Coventry and Warwickshire, Drayton Manor Theme Park and MedEvent for helping to make this event successful", he said.

Next year's walk is already being planned and details are at www.coventrywalkathon.com



The King is dead – long live.....

On Sunday May 11th **Market Harborough Lions Club** held it 40th and last Charter dinner. Sad? No!!

A number of years ago the all male Lions Club of Market Harborough discussed inviting ladies. The members were already ageing and set in their ways and were reluctant to change the status quo. However they also recognised that it was not good for Lionism to exclude 50% of the population of Market Harborough from an opportunity to serve in the best service organisation in the world.

The answer that they came up with was to form a Branch Club. Not in an out of the way village but on the same "patch" as the existing Club. It was recognised that, hopefully, a younger Club, and with ladies as members they would do things differently and not compete.

The Branch took a while to grow but in November 2012 the **Harborough 2012 Lions Club** was chartered. It has a good balance of ladies and gentlemen and ages. It is already doing important work in the community and further afield.

A few months ago the current President called a meeting to discuss the future of the Market Harborough Lions Club. The options were to carry on with ever fewer members or to close the Club at the end of the current Lions year. At the start of the meeting there was certainly no consensus. The meeting progressed in good humour with honest appraisals. The point was made that we could not grow without competing with

the new Club for members. At the end of the meeting it was unanimous that we should close but go out with a BANG not a whimper.

And so with a few events to go and our final Charter passed we are preparing to close, some will move over as Lions to Harborough 2012, others will sit in the wings and help the new Club where they can. However that is not the end.

A new social Club is now to be formed based upon all previous members of Market Harborough Lions Club. It will be called the Piliions (**P**reviously **I**nvolved **L**ions – taking a back seat). They will meet regularly socially and be available to Harborough 2012 to assist where needed. The new group will of course be twice the size of the old Lions Club, as it will include wives.

Market Harborough is not a large enough town to support two Lions Clubs, as well as Rotary, Round Table and a number of other clubs. However without the decisions taken several years ago there would not be a Lions Club at all in Market Harborough. Is this a formula that can be repeated?

Malvern Hills Lions Club “Bluebell Sponsored Walk”

Both the weather and the number registering to take part in this year’s walk where disappointing, even though there was an excellent display of Bluebells to be seen on parts of the walking route. The weather had been fine on the days leading up to the walk day, when it was wet and misty until the last walker returned to the start and finish. Just on cue the sun then came out! The majority of the walkers covered the 7 mile although those that did found it windy at the turn round point on the top of the Worcestershire Beacon, the highest point of the hill range. Only 59 took part in the walk but on analysis it was found that we had not taken into account that this was the Sunday that most of the local Scouts, Guides and Brownie groups were on the local St Georges Day parades. None of these groups walked this year and their numbers would have made up the difference. It is hoped that it is quality not quantity of walker that counts as to date around £1,000 in sponsor money has been received. An accurate total of the amount raised from our walks is probably never known as walkers are given the opportunity to donate 50% of what they raise to a recognised charity of their choice. The walk is run in partnership with Diabetes UK and so 50% of the money the club receives goes to them. The club donated £2,400 to All Terrain Bike Response Unit Search and Rescue last year which they used towards the purchase of the vehicle on the right of the picture. The group give mountain bike first aid cover on the hills during the summer as well as first responder cover to some of the outlying areas around the district.



Worcester Lions and District 105M support Worcester flood victims

Worcester Lions and District 105M have supported flood victims in Worcester and a voluntary Search and Rescue group to more than £7000 in 2014. With houses flooded in Worcester, Worcester Lions, with significant financial support from the District 105M disaster fund, visited many flooded victims. Over 50 householders received cheques for £100 to go some small way towards their loss and to say Lions were thinking of them. Many letters and emails of thanks were received from grateful residents.

These included:

- 'You put a big smile on all our faces'
- 'Your club has helped to restore the happiness that there are people helping others'
- '...if everyone responsible did think and act as you have the world would be a much happier place....'
- 'It is much appreciatedtwo pairs of waders are probably in order.....'
- 'When I was handed this money – tears came to my eyes'
- 'I was really touched to have someone just offer help in this way'
- 'The money will help pay the high cost of electricity being used to run the dehumidifier.....'
- '....help in a practical way but also knowing that others are thinking of others and looking out for us.'

Worcester Lions Club later ran its annual Charity Golf Day at Ombersley and raised £1800. All proceeds went to the West Midlands Search and Rescue who provide water and land search rescue in Worcestershire and surrounding counties. The organisation was used in the recent local floods and they are totally voluntary.

The event was supported by numerous organisations, including Westlands Hyundai who sponsored seven holes on the course. Excellent support from many Worcester businesses was received and made an evening raffle also a big success. West Midlands Search and Rescue had a stand at the event and were able to talk and explain what they do.

Lion President Gordon Templeton made the awards and handed to Howard Painter, Chairman of West Midlands Search and Rescue the cheque for £1800. Howard explained to everyone the importance of their voluntary work in search and rescue and was very pleased Worcester Lions Club was a supporter of the organisation. The money was one of the largest single donations to the organisation since it had started.

In May the Mayor of Worcester, Counsellor Pat Agar, invited to a Tea Party all people and groups who had helped in the floods – Worcester Lions were included. The Mayor thanked everyone for their hard work and support.



Lion Jaap gets on his bike to MD Convention

Lion Jaap De Jonge of Shirley Lions successfully completed his sponsored cycle ride from Shirley to the Lions MD Convention in Manchester. As reported earlier no big deal on a modern bike but on a 1939 Dutch Batuus bike with no suspension or gears and primitive brakes and which was hidden from the Germans during WW11 in his father's loft , well done from all the members at Shirley Lions. Lion Jaap made the ride in aid of the Alzheimer's Society, raising £725 so far. Anyone still wishing to sponsor him can do so via www.justgiving.com/jaapdejonge

