



MIDLANDS NEWS



*Editor Lion Ken Barker
news@lions105m.org.uk*

February 2014

Coventry swings and sings

On Saturday the 30th November the Central Methodist Hall, Coventry resounded to the voices of members of the Silver Lining Ladies Barbershop Chorus as they sang in four part harmony to deliver a programme of lively music from their extensive repertoire. The 500 strong audience were also blown away by Don Mather and his Miller Men, a swing band that celebrated the sounds from the 40s, 50s and 60s. Together with their vocalist Gary Rutter and pianist Mathew Horspool from the Resource Centre for the blind they provided a night to remember.

The event, organised by Coventry Leofric Lions Club in order to raise funds for the Bone Cancer Research Trust and the Coventry Resource Centre for the Blind was a real celebration of music with lots of opportunity for audience participation. Comedian Don Maclean, of "Crackerjack" fame was the "Master of Ceremonies" for the night and he had everyone in stitches with his good humoured banter and professionally delivered jokes

The Leofric Lions were pleased to announce that they expect to present donations totalling in excess of £3,600 to the two headline charities and other good causes as a result of the funds raised during a successful evening. Organiser, Reg Brown is overjoyed at the result of the event and is already planning an even more extravagant event for the people of Coventry for November 2014.

More details about the evening can be found at www.leofriclions.org.uk/concert.



Pennants exchanged on holiday

Lion Ann and Lion Ray Staniland, members of Sandwell Lions Club in the West Midlands were recently on holiday in Spain. They were surprised to find a "Lions Shop" in the delightful town of La Cala De Mijas on the Costa Del Sol. After making a purchase they got chatting and were invited to La Cala Lions Club meeting the following evening.

They found it so interesting to attend this meeting and were made very welcome. La Cala is a very successful Lions Club and it was inspiring to hear what tremendous donations they make in their local area. Ideas were exchanged and Ann gave a short talk on Sandwell Lions and their fundraising activities.

Pennants were exchanged and it was a very enjoyable visit!



Santa in Shirley

Another year over and another successful sleigh collection for Shirley Lions. This year not only did the local Honda dealership provide us with a brand new CRV suitably adorned with reindeer but they also gave our sleigh a makeover.

Despite atrocious weather some evenings the children of Shirley were waiting each evening as the sleigh toured the streets.

Traditionally Santa hands out lollies as he does his rounds and we calculate that this year some 2,700 lollies were given out! Oh and £7,000 was collected by his helpers.

In addition to Honda our thanks go to residents of Shirley for their generosity and to Knowle & Dorridge Lions who assisted us.



Sunny weather brings out charity walkers

Cloudless skies greeted almost 1500 walkers who ignored the early morning frost for the 21st Lions Knowle & Dorridge Lions Festive Walk at Baddesley Clinton on Sunday 29th December.

"We were delighted to have sunny skies ideal for walking," said Lions organiser Ute Smith. "It's tremendous the way this annual charity event attracts so many residents to walk off the Christmas pud every year, even with muddy and flooded lanes and footpaths. Once again people were extremely generous with the Lions receiving over £7,000 on the day for their nominated charities – The Brain Tumour Charity, Vision Care & Northleigh House."

"It's great that so many people are supporting us and we even had people who decided to run the routes this year instead of walking", said Ute. "So to all the walkers and runners alike, thank you once again for your continuous support".

Anyone who missed the walks for whatever reason may download the map of the routes from www.knowleanddorridgelions.com/festive and tackle them at their convenience.

Photo: Lion Alistair Clark explains the routes to walkers.



Lions make Christmas better

Corby & District Lions Club collected over £1500 at their pre-Christmas supermarket collections in 2013.

Every year Corby & District Lions collect money from shoppers at supermarkets around the town to make local people's Christmas a little better. At the end of 2013, Corby Lions volunteers collected at Morrison's, ASDA and Tesco. Being a small club we spread thinly but effectively so as not to overwhelm. In spite of that rider, however, the generosity of local shoppers amounted to £1544.60.

The money collected has been allocated to four local children's centres as well as a donation to a local food bank.

Although slightly down on the 2012 collections, Corby & District Lions are pleased with the outcome and look forward to a better return in 2014.

In our picture, standing alongside Father Christmas are (from left to right) Bipin Karsandas, Dan MacDonald and Club President, Mike Garlick doing their bit to keep shoppers happy.



Santa in Southam

Well Christmas has been and gone for another year but the Southam Lions are feeling pretty good right now and it's not just because of overeating and maybe the occasional 'nip' This Christmas the Santa Sleigh was out again for 14 visits around Southam and the local villages. Santa gave out chocolates to huge numbers of children (and if truth be known to people outside the usual 'children category') but all to good avail since a whopping £5374 was accumulated over the period for the President's Charities.

On January 15th Southam Lions rounded up the money and gave £3000 to the Acorns Hospice Charity and £3000 to Teenage Cancer Trust at a special presentation.

The Lions wish to thank everyone who kindly and so generously gave so much money for these very special charities."



Rowell supports PROSTaid

Rowell Lions held a very successful Brass & Voices Concert in Rothwell Parish Church just before Christmas.

After paying the Brass Band, the choir and making a donation to the Church, we were able to donate £500 to PROSTaid.

PROSTaid are a support group in Leicestershire and Northamptonshire for people with Prostate Cancer. They also raise money to provide specialist Prostate equipment to the local hospitals. They now have a specialist Prostate Cancer Nurse in Leicester and have just announced that there will also be a specialist nurse in Northampton.



THE EYES HAVE IT!

Corby and District Lions Club began collecting spectacles 15 years ago and have just collected their 100,000th pair. Every pair is used to bring the gift of sight to people in the third world through Eye Camps and other vision related projects.

The story starts when you get a new pair of spectacles and leave your old ones in bins provided at the opticians. Corby Lions collect these used spectacles from opticians in Corby, Kettering and Market Harborough, parcel them up and send them to the Lions Club at Chichester. They sort the spectacles from Lions Clubs all over England and send them on to where they will be most beneficial.

Spectacle frames with any gold content are separated from the rest as the gold can be removed and sold, and the proceeds used by Lions to support various eye projects across the third world.

A small number of spectacles are selected for other projects but the majority are sorted into men's, ladies', children's and sunglasses. These are sent on to the Lions in France who have a centre to clean, grade and sort the spectacles ready for despatch to third world countries.

All of the work in Britain is done by hand, but at each stage volunteers are supported by community projects. Chichester Lions are helped by people doing Community Service. There is a project at Ford prison to train inmates to extract gold from frames, while the spectacles prepared for individual projects are cleaned, graded and sorted by inmates at Durham prison.

Lion Colin Bradshaw (who has done most of the collecting from local opticians) said: "We are proud to have collected so many spectacles for further use. It shows how Lions Clubs can put together a plan to help people in need throughout the world. I would like to thank Eye to Eye, Joseph's, ASDA and Tesco opticians in Corby, as well as local branches of Specsavers and Parcel force; and of course the people who donate their old spectacles, as without their help this would have been much more difficult to achieve."

Picture shows local Lions Colin Bradshaw, Dan McDonald, Chris Godbold and Mike Garlick with some of the boxes of spectacles ready for shipping.



 Birmingham Chinatown Lions Club
Chinese New Year Celebration
Saturday 8th February 2014


Year of the Horse 马

吉祥如意 HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR

12 Course Traditional Chinese Banquet £25 per person
For tickets contact chinatownlions@hotmail.com
Reservation Hotline 07790 30 40 33
*Dress code lounge suits/cocktail dress/traditional dress
*Celebration Starts at 7.00pm

伯明翰華埠獅子會
祝大家新春快樂
馬年平安幸福
馬到成功|龍馬精神

 Tin Tin Cantonese Restaurant
Waters Edge
Brindley Place
Broad Street
Birmingham
B1 2HL

 In aid of
The Birmingham Chinese (Saturday) School
Lions Locally Supported Charities
BCLC "The Big Project" 

Shirley Senior Citizens Party

Saturday 11th January saw 200 Shirley senior citizens descend upon on the Shirley Community Centre for their annual party organised by Shirley Lions.

The Lions had arrived at the Centre in the morning to prepare the room for our guests and by 12.00 noon everything was ready. Some guests arrived under their own steam whilst a fleet of Lions was despatched to pick up those slightly more infirm. Other Lions went down to local chippie where 200 pre-ordered portions of fish and chips were ready for collection. By good timing and a bit of luck the last of the guests were sat down just as the fish and chips arrived at 1.00 pm prompt. 400 cups of tea later (yes every one of them had 2 cups) and the entertainment began. First of all Gabriella the Ukele Lady led them through songs old and new performed on a variety of ukeles. Following two games of Bingo some of Shirley Lions got up on the stage to regale the audience with their own spoof "12 days of turkey (Christmas)". This was followed by the "Sisters of Song" who led a much enjoyed sing along session and the afternoon concluded with the drawing of the grand raffle. Happy pensioners were duly returned home, the room was cleared and exhausted Lions returned home to sink into their chairs with a stiff G & T!



Santa in Sandwell

Sandwell Lions Club in the West Midlands recently completed a very successful Sleigh Run raising a magnificent £1,300.

This took place over 3 successive Saturday nights in December. Our reindeer, aka BMW Sytner, battled through gale force winds and rain.

We were almost forced to abandon our final run but managed to keep the generator dry with bin liners and a local store gave us cardboard packaging for our very soggy Santa to sit on as he was in a pool of water. The joys of being a Lion. An enjoyable time was had by all.

Enclosed photo of Lion Ray Staniland, our super Santa.



Knowle Fun Run

Entries are open for this year's Knowle Fun Run which is on Sunday 18th May. Hundreds of runners have already made their New Year's resolution to run in Solihull's biggest fundraising event of its kind. Why not join them for this popular 5 mile Fun Run with great community atmosphere on traffic-free streets and help raise funds for The Brain Tumour Charity, Vision Care, Northleigh House and local causes. This year there are also 4 Mini Runs for children in years 1-4.

More details and entry online at www.KnowleFunRun.org.uk



Lunch is served

Northampton 80 Lions recently cooked and served lunch for 120 clients of Northampton Hope Centre for the homeless. They also did the washing up! Lions Jim, Trevor and Neville (ably assisted by Jim and Trevor's wives) spent the morning cooking sausage & mash, beans and carrots followed by spotted dick and custard, all of which had been purchased by the Club from a local cash & carry.

Meanwhile other Club members chatted with clients before engaging them with a bingo session.

Picture shows Lions Neville Cooke and Trevor Harrison serving lunch.



Santa swoops on Balsall Common

Santa and his Sleigh swooped on Balsall Common during the Festive period visiting many homes in the village plus Fen End and Burton Green, covering eight routes as well as two village collections.

Thanks to the generosity of our residents we collected just over £6,000 which will be used for many local worthwhile causes.

We would like to thank Carstins for towing our sleigh so brilliantly as well as all the local pubs and restaurants which entered into the spirit of the season.

To all the local clubs, societies, and all the little helpers; thank you to each and every one of you. Thank you to all residents and passers-by, who smiled, waved and gave us tasty treats and who donated so generously.

Finally a special thank you to all the children who came out to see us.

During the New Year Lion President Ray Stephens then presented cheques to those local organisations in recognition of their help with our Santa Sleigh Run.

In the picture (from right to left) are:

Dave Davenport, Scouts: Brian Wilson, Coventry Phoenix Lions: Peter Wreford, Cricket Club: Steve Tidy, Balsall Hornets Football Club, Hugh Boulton, Berkswell and Balsall RFC, Lion President Ray Stephens, Neil Summerfield, Berkswell and Balsall RFC and Lion Mark Whitfield (Fundraising Chairman).





Kenilworth Lions Duck Race

Kenilworth Lions ran a very successful Duck Race in the local stream on Boxing Day with several thousand people turning out to blow away the excesses of Christmas Day. A record number of duck 'tickets' were sold and for the first time five first prizes of £100 each were awarded. The Club estimates they will clear over £5000 from the event. Since then the Club have agreed that from this sum £2,000 should be donated to LCIF for Philippine support and £2,000 to MD Water Filtration Unit Project. Kenilworth Lions point out that as they are all selling tickets right up to the end of the race there is no time to actually photograph the ducks racing. Photographs show

Picture 1 Lion President Henry Woodgate

Picture 2 Lions Clive Baker and Kerry Kirwan (who spends the morning in the stream!)

Picture 3 Lions Lion Ted Curtis and Jean Henderson looking after the tickets and money

Picture 4 Lion Ted Curtis handing winnings to a lucky young prize winner



Three local problems solved by Corby Lions

Corby & District Lions aim to respond quickly to calls for help.

This was exemplified at the end of 2013 when a telephone call was received about an elderly lady in the area who became blind overnight. The Northamptonshire Association for the Blind suggested a talking clock and telephone. However after a demonstration of the items the lady concerned was reluctant to accept them owing to the cost but Corby & District Lions made sure she could keep them.

Similarly, when the area's volunteer bureau was seeking help on behalf of a local destitute lady, Corby Lions were happy to help with a small donation to tide her over the emergency. For a very small outlay indeed, Corby & District Lions were able to help two people in need of life enhancing help that most would take for granted.

Picture shows the contented recipient with her telephone and talking clock.



Continuing its role to help local people in need, Corby & District Lions Club has gladly donated funding to the local She Matters Women's Centre, enabling them to buy a banner for use in advertising their services and to encourage more access to the centre.

The She Matters Women's Centre aims to provide a safe, mutually-supportive setting in which women can meet their own self-defined needs. The centre is a registered charity whose volunteers provide counselling, emotional support and signposting to other agencies for local women. The centre welcomes all women from Corby and surrounding areas in order to enhance their quality of life through craft based activities as well as counselling and emotional support sessions. The craft groups promote a sense of achievement, skills sharing, friendship and bonding; and their numbers are growing week by week.

Picture shows Lion Mike Garlick handing the donation to She Matters Co-ordinator, Carole Davie.



Lions celebrate with trees.

Members of Market Harborough Lions Club decided to celebrate forty years of service to the town and beyond by funding the planting of forty specimen trees in Welland Park. The Club, founded in 1974, has raised funds and supported a wide range of charitable projects over the years.

At the tree planting, which was started on Tuesday 28th January, the current President, Lion Peter Warren said: "For forty years the Club has worked to support good causes locally and wider afield. Internationally we have regularly supported projects such as Eye Camps, Water Aid projects in developing countries and locally we have recently supported Cube Youth Project, Robert Smyth School Jazz Band, Street Pastors, Jubilee Foodbank and many many others. We have also organised the town's Carnival parade for many years and put on a tea party for the town's senior citizens."

Market Harborough Lions Club was founded, and continues as a club with an all-male membership. Three of the original members are still actively serving the Club: Peter Warren (2013-14 President), Bernard Croft (Secretary) and David Thake (Chair of Community Welfare Committee).

In 2012 a new Lions Club was launched in the town – Harborough Twenty 12 Lions Club – which is a mixed Club. At the end of the 2013-14 Lions year in June, Market Harborough Lions Club will cease to exist and the work of Lions in the town will be taken up by Twenty 12.

David Thake thanked the Harborough District Council for their help in arranging to find suitable sites and plant the trees. He said: "We hope that these trees will serve as a celebration of our forty years of service to the town and act as a suitable memorial to the Club's work."

