

## Welcome to 2022

100 years ago, Spanish Flu was a recent memory, having only ended 2 years earlier. Let's hope that we are now in the last stages of Covid 19. It would be nice to start with the knowledge that we have clear road ahead. However, there will probably a few bumps still, but I am confident that the worst is over.

December we all were busy with our sleighs and other fund-raising activities, as well as providing service in our own Lions way. I look forward to reading your reports in this newsletter.

Although I was active this month, supporting my own club, there was still time to join a few activities. In the last days of November, I joined Coventry Mercia for a very nice Chanukah lighting ceremony with the Mayor and a singer. Most enjoyable.

I visited the Birmingham Handsworth Bollywood evening and the next day I visited the Christmas lunches from both Solihull LC and Walsall LC. At both I had the pleasure to present chevrons for long service and a certificate of 50-year service, signed by our Patron, to PDG Lion Doug Cross and PDG Lion Mike Jobbins. It is always inspirational to talk to these experienced Lions. So much to learn about the history of our organisation.



I received the chevrons in mid-December and will try to hand out as many as I can personally, assisted by our VDG's. If I run out of time (I am now half way. L) I will send them to the presidents.

We are now close to the Winter Forum. A subject close to my heart is coping with change. I hope you allow me to say something about that. In March we have our convention. Please register. We will do our best to make it a memorable one.

Stay safe and that 2022 will be the best it can be. See you at Winter Forum!

## ***New Members***

Chipping Sodbury  
Kingswinford-Stourbridge  
Ross-on-Wye  
Ross-on-Wye

Sharon Hearle  
Len Jinks  
Jacqui Capaldi  
Rosemary Cross

Rugby Rokeby  
Savern Dean  
Shirley  
Tetbury

Tina Newman  
Vikki Reid  
Steven Graham  
James Morley

## ***Membership Matters.***

Having the right resources is important.

We have to make sure we are visible in the Community, we all know that, but we also need to back this up with modern, relevant resources.

Whilst its great to be able to look up information about Lions on the internet (and we have a wonderful plethora of information, ideas and so on available there) it might not be the best way forward for everyone. For those whom we are hoping might join us it is also good to have something that they can read at home and use to help them think about joining.



Do you have you a prepared document that talks about your Club in a simple and informative way?

Do you use pictures that show what you do and who you help?

Do you know that there are plenty of materials available from our Headquarters in Birmingham? None it if is terribly expensive and some of them are free!

Hopefully, we all know that HQ can sell your Club a table cover for around £6. Something as simple as that turns an ordinary table into a Lions table. Add in some booklets, contact us cards, Step Forward booklets and Step Forward postcards and you have the basis of a good recruitment stall. HQ can also supply you with posters and roll-up banners, the designs are all done. You will see details of all these new publications in this Newsletter and all you need to do is phone and orders will be put in the post to you. (Last Page)

We are past Christmas now and it will soon be time to plan for the Spring and Summer. As you plan your Service and Fundraising activity, please make sure you plan to increase awareness of Lions. Positive Membership Activity following a Plan has to be the way to grow your reach and your Membership.

*Sue Wilding* [gmt@lions105cw.org.uk](mailto:gmt@lions105cw.org.uk)

## **Survey Report—Card Readers**

We promised to bring you the results of our survey as to how clubs were using and benefitting from using card readers. Well, that was my intent (editor). It seems you did not agree. 😊  
Huge thanks to Tom Pettigrew of Cheltenham Lions for responding. Unfortunately his was the only response and one response does not a survey make. Oh well.



## Social Media

If your club has had lots of engagement from your Christmas service Facebook posts, there is something your admins can do to increase followers.

Admins make sure you click the like panel at the bottom of your photo to invite those people to like your page. As shown in this screenshot.

It's one way to grow your followers!

#FollowUs #TeamCW



### Photos missing a Lions logo?

Download the transparent png version from here:

<https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/resources-for-members/resource-center/logos-and-emblems>

Upload it to a simple graphic design app like Canva with your photos to advertise our Lions brand. The free version works very well.

[https://www.canva.com/en\\_gb/](https://www.canva.com/en_gb/)



## Focus on.....

Trying something new. Each month one club can tell us a bit more about themselves and their communities. Email [news@lions105cw.org.uk](mailto:news@lions105cw.org.uk) if you would like to be next.

First is **Birmingham and Handsworth Lions.**

Handsworth is located, North West Birmingham in the West Midlands.

Historically in Staffordshire, Handsworth lies just outside Birmingham City Centre.

The club currently has 20 members.



## Celebrating 35 years of Service

On April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1986 within District MD105 a new and vibrant club was performed – Birmingham Handsworth Lions Club. Over the years, the club has grown in strength and supported a number of local and international fund-raising initiatives from raising funds for hospital equipment and beds, collecting in excess of £30,000 for rebuilding costs, after the major earthquake in Gujarat, India 2001 which caused so much devastation, fund raising for flood disaster in Bangladesh, and helping to support schools and water well projects in Kenya and East Africa; as well as being key in the BRMB Walkathon as marshals and the Soho Road Diwali Mela. The club is proud to boast over 50% of memberships have been awarded MJF, 75% have held the presidential post, club service ranging from 2 years to 35 years, and membership includes past district governors – most notably PDG Lion Harry Hunjan. More recently, the club has supported several initiatives just pre- and during lockdown:

With a budget more than £5000, we held a major eye camp in Navsari, India personally attended by PP Lion Kanubhai Patel MJF and family / friends which not only serviced around 1000 patients but provided food and blankets for accompanying family members of patients.

We are budgeting to spend over £3,500 to refurbish shower facilities at Hamilton School, Handsworth which caters for children with autistic and special needs, coordinated by Lion Umeshbhai Davda. Pandemic aside, with Government cutbacks, the school has gone through significant financial difficulties, and we are pleased to provide continued support at their fayres through the Hamilton Charity.

In association with several London-based Lions clubs and charitable organisations, during lockdown a collaboration fund raising effort raised more than £45,000 to support the purchase of cardiac and other medical equipment at Harefield Hospital, London. We were proud to work with our sister clubs in London.

With the support of Sandwell Lions Club, Birmingham Handsworth Club, in May 2021, delivered an online fund-raising initiative to support those affected in the streets of India from the Covid-19 epidemic by the emergent "Delta" variant which, as the dominant variant at the time, was taking its grip on the poorest. We raised more than £15,000 which was immediately put to use, as, as at the same time, India was hit by cyclone "Yaas" causing devastating damage and flooding. Partnering with UK registered charity "Asian Foundation for Help" and the "Ram Krishna Mission" in India, we were able to mobilise and provision (and continue to do so) food, medicine, essentials, and shelter to those affected on the streets of India. The smiles and gratitude received are un-measurable!

We continue to support the Marie Curie Cancer appeal, co-ordinated by PP Lion Vikrambhai MJF, recently collecting around £1,000 for the charity. PP Lion Treasurer Jit Sejhal MJF continues to organise and plan our Easter Hamper which has been successful in supporting many charitable causes including our friends at the Birmingham Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Whilst the past couple of years have limited our club from in-person activities, we would like to acknowledge our gratitude to fellow Lions at sister club Acocks Green Lions Club for providing Santa's sleigh for the Christmas sleigh run in Handsworth when circumstances have been hospitable to allow us.

We were sad to see PP Lion Dawer Tawfik MJF retire after decades of continuous service. He remains a close friend of the club and continues to support our fund raising and charitable efforts. We were sad to lose our dear friend Lion Jasu Parekh who sadly passed away in the last year. He remains in our memories as a friend and dedicated Lion.

On Saturday July 31<sup>st</sup>, Birmingham Handsworth Lions Club were pleased to have a small celebration for our 35<sup>th</sup> charter anniversary at the Red Lion pub in West Bromwich. We kept it small in consideration of the current pandemic. Our club was honoured to have District Governor Lion Jaap de Jonge as our special guest, fellow lions from Sandwell, past Zone Chair Nick Bate & wife Jackie, and our friends of the club with our members.

Lion President Jitesh H. Samani (2021-2022), commented *“Whilst we recognise the current circumstances and the need for maintaining safety, it was important that we as a club did not let our 35 years pass without some safe celebration & acknowledgement of our achievements.*

*It was indeed a privilege to be asked by the club to continue as President for a fourth continuous term. The past 2 years has meant our club activities in person have been limited and I hope to bring us back to some “normality” when I handover to my successor VP Lion Devinder Dobbs in 2022. I am pleased that we have a fresh, enthusiastic committee and look forward to our meetings which restarted from September at our new HQ – The New Garden Gate, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham.*

*To celebrate 35 years with our distinguished membership & friends was indeed a privilege, but to be graced and presented with an MJF by the club and DG Lion Jaap is truly inspiring and an honour. I hope I can continue to make the club proud.”*

In December 2021, before the increased spread of the Omicron variant, our club had the opportunity to host a wonderful evening of Bollywood entertainment provided by musicians from India at the Shinarstar Banqueting Suite – Wolverhampton. It was a fundraiser in aid of the British Heart Foundation and Healing Little Hearts. We had an astounding turnout of around 250 guests and are pleased to announce that we have to-date raised more than £5,000 + gift aid for the respective charities. It was an excellent team effort from all the club members in putting the event together and raising such phenomenal funds. Sincere thanks to Lions Vikrambhai and Kanubhai for the event planning and to all members, friends, and sister clubs for their support. Sincere thanks to PP Lion Dr. Dev Dalvair MJF for supervising full Covid safety protocols, providing masks, sanitisers and Lateral Flow kits, to Zone chair Sara Moseley & husband Les, and DG Lion Jaap de Jong for supporting us in the evening, and our dear PP Lion Joginder Singh Phul MJF for taking care of our special guests during the evening.



Lion President Jitesh Samani (2018-2022) receives MJF from District Governor Lion Jaap de Jong and Past President Lion Jit Josen MJF.



Left: Lion President Jitesh Samani (2018-2022) with District Governor Lion Jaap de Jong , Zone chair Sara Moseley, PP Lion Joginder Singh Phul MJF and guests at December event. Right: Members of Birmingham Handsworth Lions Club past & present at our farewell event to the Farcroft Hotel & Pub in 2021 and a thank you to PP Lion Jit Josen MJF for our HQ for the last 35 years.

## Club news

### Oadby & Wigston Lions

Slimmers bring a mountain of food!!!

Members of Slimming World, Wigston brought a mountain of food to their meeting at Wigston Liberal Club. This food was donated to the South Wigston Foodbank, organised by Oadby & Wigston Lions and members of the South Wigston Congregational Church.

This helps towards making sure we are able to supply our customers during this cold season.

R to L: Liv Trueman from Slimmers World, Samantha Wherett from Wigston Liberal Club and Kevin Loydall from Oadby and Wigston Lions



to  
Club



Members of Oadby & Wigston Lions Club also took part in National Tree Planting Week by plant 70 trees at Brockshill, Oadby to celebrate the Queens 70th Jubilee next year. Expert guidance was given by Eleanor the Brockshill Ranger.

The trees were planted alongside the 100 trees the club planted in 2017 to celebrate Lions 100th. birthday.

## COVENTREE - National Tree Week 2021

Coventry Godiva Lions, First VDG and the District Environment officer joined hands with Lions Club of Coventry Godiva to support this worthy cause. The project dubbed COVENTREE took place on 27th November and 4th December in Coventry City. This was done during the National Tree Week, the UK's largest annual tree celebration that was between Saturday 27th November and Sunday 5th December when people across the country planted thousands of trees to mark the start of the winter tree planting season.



Close to 1000 trees were planted over the two days including a variety of native trees, honorary native trees and shrubs like: Apples, Birch, Chestnut, Holly, Hawthorn, Hazel, Maple,

Oak, Pine, Willow and Yew. A commemorative eco-friendly plaque installed. It is part of the Coventry Urban Forestry Strategy that envisages the planting of 360000 trees across the city over the next 10 years, roughly one tree per citizen. It ties in well with the fact that Coventry is the capital of culture for 2021. It also contributes to the Queen's Green Canopy, a unique tree-planting initiative to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022.



This underlined the club's continued commitment to environment protection and combating climate change as signified by an earlier generous donation to the World Land Trust (an international conservation charity that protects the world's most biologically significant and threatened habitats acre by acre) for 4 different aspects of their mission across the globe: Action Fund, Buy an Acre, Wildfire Appeal and Plant a Tree.



**Warwick Lions** have been holding their annual Christmas can collection for more than 40 years.

We circulate residents to place non-perishable food items outside of their doors on an appointed day to be collected and made up into food parcels for the needy of the district and from whom we receive a great many appreciative cards and phone calls.

This year we were also lucky to have the support and participation of the Mayor of Warwick Councillor Richard Edgington together with members of the No. 1368 Squadron Air Training Corps to assist as well as donations of mince pies and tea bags from our local branch of Morrison's Super Market and thanks to the incredible generosity of local people we were able to make up and deliver over 200 food parcels.

WARWICK LIONS after twelve months of planning and nervously watching COVID reports have just held a very successful Carol Concert In the grounds of Warwick Castle.

Mindful of social distancing the number of tickets was this year limited to 3,000 causing this very popular precursor to the Christmas festivities to sell out quickly. Last year was only the second time in it's 49 year history that the Concert has had to be cancelled and Lions have been involved from the very beginning.

The event is now jointly organised by five local charitable organisations who share the proceeds between them. Currently apart from being involved on the organising committee Lions also run stalls providing tea, coffee, hot chocolate and mulled wine all of which provide a Substantial amount towards our charity account.





## Page mentions



**Black Country Women's Aid**

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Lions of Love, Joy and Cheer!!!

We send our love and thanks to everyone from [Sandwell Lions Club](#) ❤️ as well as the fab team from [West Midlands 4x4 Response](#)

Who bring cheer across Sandwell every Christmas with their Sleigh.

We were really delighted to be presented with a cheque for £250!!! by

[Councillor Richard Jones](#)

Your kind donation will directly support families escaping domestic abuse. When families arrive at refuge usually they only have the clothes they are wearing.

We will be able to buy PJ'S, underwear, and welcome toiletries packs to help them settle in and overcome trauma.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas, thanks so much from all at BCWA 🥰



## Sandwell Lions

We pride ourselves on being responsive. An appeal came through from Black Country Women's Aid between meetings so we communicated through WhatsApp and then set up a quick zoom meeting to vote on the appeal and the amount to be given with a 3 day turn around.

A WhatsApp message also resulted in Lion Arthur getting some last-minute support from Lion Ajit and Lion Stephen to pack boxes and organise shelves on the last opening day at Smethwick Foodbank before Christmas.



The club also had the great honour of receiving a Club Excellence Award and Lions Jackie, Nick and Ray got their 10 years' service chevrons at our Christmas meal.



## Dursley Lions

Dursley Lions are in close support of a local drop-in centre for seniors & they asked if we could recover their abandoned gardens. (Their volunteer gardener had retired). As you can see the buddleia was rampant. In the spring we will re-plant the beds & planters & keep it all under control going forward. The visitors to the centre will be encouraged to sit at the back & enjoy a teacake in the open air – which is good sense in this Covid age.



## Wotton Lions

The local foodbank identified the families and Wotton Lions and local traders did the rest.



## November Club visits

### District Governor

- 12th Fishguard & Goodwick
- 13th Coventry Leofric
- 15th Coventry Mercia
- 21-23rd Council Meeting
- 23rd Winter Forum
- 26th Marston Green & Distr.
- 29th Rugby Rokeby



On Sunday 23rd January 2021 starting at 09:30am we will be holding the 2022 Winter Forum in person, at Old Court, Symonds Yat West, Whitchurch, Herefordshire, HR9 6DA.

A chance to celebrate being a part of #TeamCW, see our friends and continue to be inspired as Lions.

Highlights of the day will include: -

Sessions from the Global Action Team (Service, Membership and Leadership)

Information on North Sea Lions, Brain Tumour Research Appeal, Lions Club International Foundation, and on District Convention 2022

- Who Moved My Cheese
- Inclusive Leadership
- Ask the District - A Question and Answer Session

There is also the opportunity to bring your collected prescription spectacles along and we as a District will ensure that they are transported to National Head Quarters for processing (please let Joy know the number of boxes you will be bringing along)

The subsidised cost of the event (£10 per person) including a Roast Lunch (Beef, Lamb or Chicken with a Vegetarian option available) should ideally be paid in advance via BACS.

To book your place and places for your club members please email [postmaster@lions105cw.org.uk](mailto:postmaster@lions105cw.org.uk) with the names who would like to attend and your menu options and dietary requirements. The district will then confirm your places and the amount that needs to be paid.

If you would like to pay online the account details are: -

Sort Code 30-95-47      Account Number 00527060

If paying online please email [treasurer@lions105cw.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@lions105cw.org.uk) confirming the reference given (including 'WF'), how much has been paid, the club and the name of the attendees this covers, so Christine can identify the receipt.

If paying by Cheque (please endorse the back of the cheque 'Winter Forum' along with your club and the names of the people that this covers) please make payable to: - LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL, DISTRICT 105 and send to:

Lion Christine Moss - District Treasurer 105CW

12 Hillhurst Grove, Castle Bromwich, Birmingham, B36 9TS

However, if you would like to pay cash on the day this is also available (please be aware that by booking you agree to pay for your place). Bookings need to be completed by Friday 14th of January 2022 in order for us to confirm numbers, catering etc.

We hope to see as many of you as possible at Winter Forum 2022.

DG – Jaap & Lion Stuart Young Global Leadership Coordinator

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Editor: **Lion Pat Comer**

Lion Magazine Liaison: **Lion Bridget Green**

Email: [news@lions105cw.org.uk](mailto:news@lions105cw.org.uk)

Closing date for articles is 25th of month

# Lions Step Forward resources

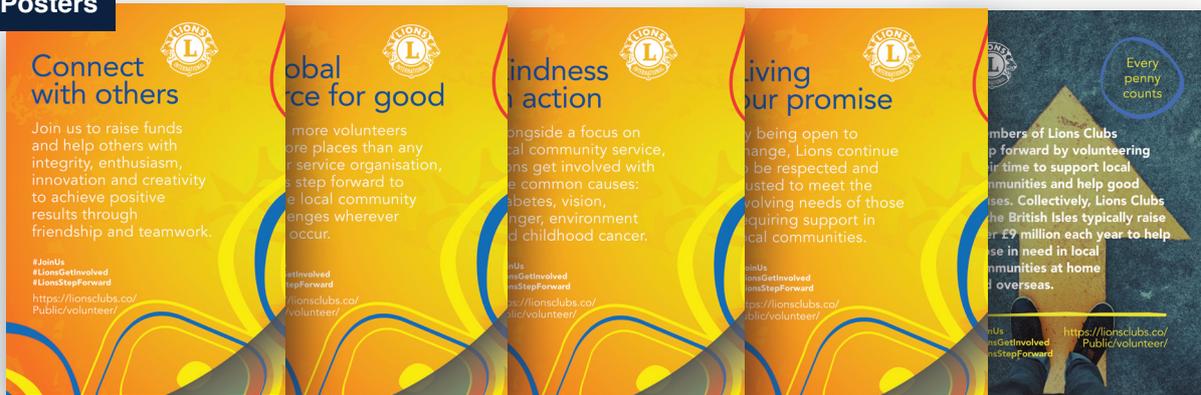
Following the successful launch of the Step Forward community report in the last LION magazine, new marketing resources have been published.

Together, these eye-catching materials help Lions to share their passion for local community volunteering, talk about how their club makes a difference, and encourage people to #JoinUs.

## Booklets



## Posters



## Postcards



- NEW:** Copies of a Step Forward mini-leaflet, as well as sets of postcards and posters (in various sizes), are available to purchase.
- FREE:** A box of 50 copies of Step Forward reports can be requested, with only the cost of postage to pay (one box per club allocation, while stocks last).
- ORDER:** Please get in touch with Lions National Headquarters on 0121 441 4544.