

## 105CW News and Information July 22

### Farwell to Jaap as his year comes to a close as our District Governor.

Over the last 12 months you will have read my articles in the "From your DG" column. It is over now, A three-year journey has come to its conclusion. The First DG in CW that did the whole 3-year trip in CW.

I had the pleasure to visit all the 92 clubs in the district. Albeit a number on Zoom, however, I was glad to double up on some of them this year, enabling me to see the members with legs included.

Claire and I enjoyed the warm welcomes at club meetings and charters. As always, at every club, I was impressed with all the hard work you all do. It does not matter which club I visited, everyone is as dedicated a Lion as they come.

People ask me what has been your highlight this year. Difficult to say, but both the District Convention and the visit to our sister district in Normandy stand out, and the icing on the cake was that our district won the NSL project this year.

I thank our Cabinet and Zone Chairs for supporting us this year. We are all the same Lions, but these people spend extra time to ensure everything runs smoothly.

I would like to think that we coached CW through the awakening from Covid period and that DG Rav and his team will be able to take it forward to the next level. I am sure I speak for you all that we wish them much success.

### And welcome to Lion Rav Sandhu and his partner Lion Jas

Fellow Lions, I am Ravinder (Rav) Sandhu, District Governor for 2022/23 and would like to convey my thanks to all the Lions, Clubs and the District Officers that have supported my journey in Lionism. Thank you also to our previous District Governors, Ian Gott, Richard Williams and Immediate Past District Governor Jaap de Jonge for making our District CW one of the best in MD105.

After attending the Lions Clubs International Convention in Montreal, with my wife Jas, I have been inspired by the great World leaders of our Association to humbly Serve and lead our District to be one of the best in Europe, CA4 Constitutional Area, with your support. The message from our International President Brian Sheehan is "Together We Can." We live, we give and we serve as one, because we know that together we are more. Together there are no limits and my message to you fellow Lions is "Together We Grow."



The District Governor's team, myself, 1st Vice David McKirdy and 2nd Vice Stu Young will start our Club Visits in August 2022, giving the Club Presidents a chance to have their first business meetings. The D.G. Team have decided to rotate the location of our District Conventions in the coming years, for the benefit of all Lion members. This Lions year the Convention will be held to the East of our District, next year to the West and the following year Central. For the first time in our district 105CW, Region Chairs have been introduced to support and assist the Zone Chairs perform their duties.

Global Membership Approach (GMA) has been introduced by the International President Brian Sheehan to grow our membership worldwide. Sue Wilding, our membership chair, will be leading the GMA for our District, with more details to follow. Paul Murphy will be leading the District Global Service Team and Stu Young leading the Global Leadership Team.

Helen Keller said “Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.” **So, let us all work together to grow our Membership, to Serve more people and train new Leaders. “TOGETHER WE GROW.”**

**Welcome to our new members.**

AMMANFORD	GARETH EVANS	COVENTRY GODIVA	DHARMESH LADVA
BIRMINGHAM CHINATOWN	ADAM COOKSLEY	COVENTRY GODIVA	YASH GARG
BIRMINGHAM CHINATOWN	MATTHEW DALWOOD	GOWER & LLWCHWR ESTUARY	JAMES LEXIMA
BROMSGROVE	CHRISTINA KEATING	HINCKLEY BURBAGE	CLAIRE PARRATT
BROMSGROVE	TERRY KEATING	SHIRLEY	MAUREEN COSGROVE
CENTRAL WEST BI 2020 VIRTUAL	MARK PITTMAN	WOTTON UNDER EDGE	JANE WESTON

**Membership Matters.**

Welcome to a brand-new start for Membership – the launch of the Global Membership Approach or GMA for short. It’s a whole new way to offer you support with Membership Growth so that we widen our impact and keep our members stay active and engaged.



These changes have been developed over several years in North America, then piloted worldwide whilst being refined and adapted to make sure they are relevant and flexible to what we need.

So, in CW, under the leadership of DG Rav, we have developed 4 teams. They will be working on these key areas :

- Rejuvenating our District with New Clubs and New Club Branches
- Rejuvenating our Clubs with new members
- Re-motivating our members with fellowship and exciting service
- Leader support

We have Goals to achieve, We will be working to start 2 New Clubs, reaching out to find 160 new members and doing our best to keep our membership losses to 150 members this coming year.

As you can imagine, for something that has taken years to develop it is not possible to explain it all in this newsletter. Never fear, there will be plenty of opportunities to learn more at online events, forums and at convention we will be telling you how plans are progressing. Of course, lots of information and detail can be found on the LCI website : [Global Membership Approach | Lions Clubs International](https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/global-membership-approach)

Onwards and Upwards! Sue Wilding   Membership Coordinator   [gmt@lions105cw.org.uk](mailto:gmt@lions105cw.org.uk)





## Chipping Sodbury Lions – Supporting Ukraine

How did it start? After a collection in our local shopping centre. All the members of **Chipping Sodbury Lions** wanted to help people in Ukraine quickly. In the end. We sent most to Lions Clubs International Foundation and the rest to DEC, neither of these react very quickly. It was then agreed that we should try to help directly by helping **Kyiv Lions** and then to help refugees with transport.

Ian Gott, **Chipping Sodbury** secretary arranged the trip and contacted a number of coach companies

near to Chipping Sodbury. Turners Coaches in Bristol offered to provide a coach with fuel and drivers (one polish speaking). The logistics of the trip became clear, as even with two drivers they need a 9-hour overnight break after driving for a maximum of 21 hours.

After crossing on the ferry, we drove nonstop to the warehouse of **Kyiv Lions** in Krakow to



unload around 1000 Kgs of food and medical supplies including 20 trauma bags supplied by **Wotton Lions**. All the local supermarkets and a number of individuals delivered food and medical supplies to an empty shop loaned

to us by Yate shopping centre.

Ian Gott said, "I really didn't know where to start but fortunately I met a number of helpful volunteers along the way. Sadly, I just can't say the same for any of the local or central government bodies".

The only helpful one was the British Embassy in Warsaw, who during an expensive phone call, agreed to contact all the recent people issued with Visas to tell them about the transport".

There are some amazing volunteers from the UK, after refusing to take a 35-week pregnant woman (what happens if she went into labour on the ferry?), her sponsors drove from Plymouth the Dortmund in Germany to pick her up with her two young children.

Another incredible volunteer was Sally, who brought a minibus from Warsaw to Krakow (4-hour drive) the evening before we left, then went back to pick up more at 4:30 the next morning!

I also have to give a big thank you to Jess Eastland from **Wotton Lions** who took time off work to join the trip. Nearly all the

passengers were women and children, Jess was amazing and they all loved her! This whole crisis should not be happening.

We stayed overnight in central Krakow and the next morning, loaded 41 Ukrainians and a returning volunteer. Once in England the mood changed from tiredness to happiness with singing and joy. After dropping some off at Dover train station, we finally arrived in Yate near Bristol just before 11pm. Sponsors and members of **Wotton Lions** (who put them up for the night before putting them on a train to Edinburgh) were there to collect them all. There was many tears of happiness and some sadness for leaving the bus and their friends. This made all to effort so worthwhile.

The Welsh and Scottish governments both run sponsor schemes to marry up refuges and sponsors, this is great in theory as the English government does nothing, however the Welsh managed to lose a vulnerable elderly gentleman twice, and the Scottish failed to meet the train on Edinburgh.



## Tetbury Lions Speed through May

### Wacky Races

The first bank holiday on the 2nd May saw the return to Tetbury of the Wacky Races. The event had to be cancelled in both 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic and the club members thought that there might be a reasonable turn out as normality was starting to return.

We were overwhelmed by the response. Some 7,000 people came to this free event. There were 23 karts and over 30 stalls.

The whole day was a brilliant example of the

Tetbury Community pitching in to help. Pupils from Sir William Romneys School, junior players from the Rugby Club, Tetbury's cricketers all helped set up the downhill course with its infamous ramp jump and hairpin bend. They also helped to dismantle it at the end of the day.

Local businesses gave invaluable assistance. Eagle Plant transported the spectator barriers kindly loaned by Westonbirt Arboretum. A local farmer provided 180 straw bales for the day, which he delivered and took back.

Lion President, Maggie Heaven, said "This event was a real economic boost for Tetbury. Every stall had queues for all sorts of refreshments and the local pubs and shops had a marvellous day. On behalf of Tetbury Lions Club, I would like to especially thank The Priory Inn and Arkells Brewery for sponsoring the event."

A total of some £4,000 was raised for Mental Health Charities and the people of Ukraine.

### The Wing Walk

On the 21<sup>st</sup> May, Lion President, Maggie Heaven, and Vice-President, Phil Williams, took to the skies for a formation Wing Walk over the Cotswolds..

Take off speed was 65 knots and flying speed was 100 knots and the event took place at Rendcomb Airfield near Cirencester under the watchful guidance of AeroSuperBatics, whose professional wing walkers made sure that both Maggie and Phil were well strapped in. It was also reassuring that the professional pilots kept an eye on the intrepid pair while the flight was in progress.

A sum of some £6,000 was raised by the dynamic duo's sponsors.



## Shirley Lions

### Green Fingers

Shirley Lions green fingered members held a plant sale on Lion Phil and Anne's drive. It was held for the first time a year ago as a way to raise funds during Covid. That sale was all according to the rules in force at that moment and the result was surprising good. Nothing was priced, people were asked to make a donation. As we all looked at new ways to raise funds, we learned that the new initiatives can be continued and as a result the plant sale has become part of the Shirley Lions calendar of activities. Also this time over £1,000 was raised.



The plants were all grown by members who enjoy growing plants, herbs, fruit and veg. The money raised has been added to the charity account and in due course be used to make many people's lives better. Currently we are involved in support for the Ukraine and a donation will be made to a new defibrillator in the area.

### Beer Festival

Shirley Royal British Legion, home of the annual 3 Lions beer festival, where **Solihull, Acock Green** and **Shirley Lions** cooperate. This time they asked this time **Shirley Lions** to run a small version of this beer fest for the Legion as part of the Platinum Jubilee. Never say no to a golden, sorry, platinum opportunity and we were glad to support the Legion.



They let us use their facilities on a regular basis. So "You scratch our back, we scratch yours". The weather was not the best, shops were not open, reducing footfall.

As a result it was not the biggest success in the world, but as all the beers and ciders were sponsored, all the income was profit.

On top of that, the vast majority of liquids on offer were bag in box ciders, so whatever was left can be used at the 3 Lions Beerfest in a few months.

### Corby and District Lions

**Corby and District Lions** participated in the Corby Pole Fair on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2022, which also coincided with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. You may wonder – what is Pole Fair?

The Pole Fair is a major community celebration. This date links the original granting of the Royal Charter to Corby by Queen Elizabeth 1<sup>st</sup> in 1585. This unique tradition comes around every 20 years, attracting large crowds to enjoy outdoor attractions, entertainment and reading of the Royal Charter at the three entrances to the village.

Traditionally, any visitor to the Old Village has to pay a "toll" to enter the Pole Fair in reference to the Charter excusing Corby residents from paying road toll. Those not paying the toll faced being carried on a pole and locked in stocks.

Historically, the Pole Fair has included the challenge of the "Greasy Pole" where local people try these to climb a greased pole for a chance to win a joint of ham.

Members of **Corby and District Lions** joined scores of other volunteers to ensure the smooth running of this major event. On a warm sunny day, thousands of people enjoyed attractions like performances by dance groups, choirs, jousting display, Viking encampment, street food, market stalls, pageant, fancy dress, funfair and much, much more.

Young and old alike celebrated Corby Pole Fair with great fervour and enthusiasm. **Corby Lions** were pleased to have served the local community.



### Dursley Lions

Opening of the Dementia Garden at Dursley's Vale Hospital.

Dursley Lions John Toffi & Brian Sheppard worked tirelessly to help bring this project to fruition – which started out as a plot of overgrowing shrubs. The Dementia Garden is designed to be a sensory, 'hands-on' area & a space to feel at ease within. The Town Mayor opened Ann's Garden, so named after Lion John's late wife.

### Warwick Lions

Reinforcing their continued support for SAFELINE the brilliant Warwick based charity assisting those affected by sexual abuse and rape, invited Rachel Stephens the charities development coordinator to a recent meeting to give us an update on their current work and to discuss plans for their Awareness Day to be held in the Warwick Market Place on 24th. September 2022.



### Redditch Lions

Planted trees as part of the Queens canopy





### Redditch Lions

Redditch bought one used ambulance for Studley First Responders a few years back, then helped fund a second ambulance with Studley First Responders. We also have been instrumental in placing several defibrillators around



REDDITCH and educating local people in how to operate them together with the Charlotte and Craig Saving Hearts foundation.

### Three Black Country Clubs Clean Up Together

On Saturday the 25th June, **Dudley Lions, Kingswinford and Stourbridge Lions** and **Sandwell Lions** got together to join other organisations to do the Midlands Great Clean Up Litter pick in and around Priory Park.

Some Commonwealth Games events are taking place in the area so the local clubs wanted it to look it's best!

As you can see from the photos Lions had their HiVis jackets on for this service activity - visibility is so important.



## Hereford Lions Royal seats

For Queen Elizabeth's sixty years on the Throne, Hereford Lions Club planted 60 trees along Roman Road in the city. To mark her 70th they chose to donate two seats surrounded by three trees on Aylestone Park, on the edge of the City with the support of the volunteer park team.

The park is highly popular and the 'royal' seats give a stunning view of the Lugg valley. Lions press officer, George Thomas said: "The plaques on the seats explains her Majesty deserves the honour on behalf of the people of Hereford"

## Sandwell Lions

Do Lions have green fingers? - Well we think Sandwell Lions do.

They cleared paths and replanted some of the raised beds in the Langley Lodge Community Centre Garden this month. They have also been asked to help maintain it. It's amazing the difference a few hours makes.

Sandwell are planning to apply for grants and build relationships with local groups and businesses to improve the space in the future.



**Fewer pages this month. Is your club included—I doubt it as it is a small number of clubs who share their achievements. Please encourage your club as we all learn from each other.**