

Merry Christmas!



Welcome to the Christmas Issue of our District Newsletter. I know most of you will have been extremely busy with a variety of activities over this period which am sure has brought great joy to our communities across the District. A great opportunity to be noticed and am sure that the experience has been enjoyable despite the weather.

Jenny and I took the opportunity for some winter sunshine but unfortunately on our return Jenny has had an accident and is now in Hospital and will be there over the entire festive period. My thanks therefore to Lion Pat for stepping in to produce this edition. My thanks also for the good wishes and Christmas Cards received, please forgive me if you do not get one in return as my priority is with Jenny.

Earlier this month the judging took place for 2023 ROAR and the CW winning entry was the Pembroke County Primary entry supported by Chepstow and Caldicott Lions Club, congratulations. Whilst there must be a formal winner all the entries are winners in my mind and a big thank you to all the schools and supporting clubs for their entries into this year's competition, they were truly inspiring and inventive. It would be great to see more clubs take up ROAR in 2024 and give 8billionideas a bigger headache when it comes to judging. Lion David Houghton is very willing to advise clubs who may be thinking of embarking on ROAR for the first time in 2024.

For a variety of reasons our membership figures have taken a hit during the last 6 months but there are signs of a recovery. I would urge Clubs to give membership their top priority and encourage all Clubs to grow by at least 1 member between now and the end of June. We all want our legacy to continue and its new members that will give us that impetus. Let's build on all the goodwill that is evident during December and 'just ask' our friends and acquaintances to join us in helping the community. 2VDG Lion Susan Wilding has a wealth of knowledge and experience which she will share with clubs and if it is a new club you are considering then please discuss with IPDG Lion Rav Sandhu.

Thank you all very much for all the support given to our Communities in 2023 and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Let's make 2024 an even better year than 2023 with increased service levels.

January

- 3 Tetbury Lions Visit
- 9 Stour Valley Lions Visit
- 13 MD GST Meeting
- 16 Worcester Lions Visit
- 20 Balsall Common Lions 50th Anniversary Charter
- 27-28 Council of Governors' Meeting

February

- 6-8 Health & Safety Training
- 11 Cabinet Meeting on-line
- 16-18 Young Ambassador Finals

Happy New year

Membership Matters.

Celebrating festivals is always fun and it's been great to see so many Lions out and about in the Community celebrating and having fun through the autumn and start of winter. Visibility in the community is so important, making sure people learn more about who Lions are and what Lions do. We need to use publicity wisely, to share not just the activity we undertake but also the impact of our Service and the difference we make.



Lions Change the World by Service.

We must always be actively looking for more members, because more members mean more Service.

We need more members, we always have and we probably always will. There are people in our Communities who are looking for ways to make their difference and it's important to reach out to them and make sure they know they could have a place with us as Lions.

Finding New Members doesn't happen by accident, it's the result of actions we have taken and the best approach is to have a Plan. Every Club needs a Plan for how to grow. It doesn't have to be a complicated or time-consuming document, but like most plans it needs to identify what is going to be done, who is going to do it, what they need and when it will happen.

If your Club doesn't yet have a Plan of Action for Membership Growth then now is the time to develop one. You will not be alone, we have plenty of Lions willing to help you get started and point you in the right direction. Just send me an email and I can offer you advice and suggest who might be the right Lion to help you.

Plan – Act – Grow and Serve!

Lion Sue Wilding Membership Team gmt@lions105cw.org.uk

105CW Member Workshops

Social Media Workshop

Thursday 25th January 2024—7.30pm to 8.30pm

Join our District Social Media Lead as we look at the world of Social Media and how we as Lions can use this to promote our work, engage with our communities and find new members.

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlqfumgqDotHtCng-OzxQwCHQI5BW_NGKfS

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



Lions New Voices Zoom Get Together

Wednesday 31st January 2024—7.30pm to 8.30pm

Whether you are a new Lion, a young Lion, or someone who wants to promote more diversity in our clubs and promote new ideas, you are welcome to join New Voices Officer Michelle and Global Leadership Team Lead Melissa to find out more about service project opportunities and how we can promote the activities we do.

Register in advance for this meeting:

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/joining/register/tZ0qceigqTMtHtcJiXCWUj8CnrsVLbFOitYc>



Certified Guiding Lion Programme

Saturday 27th January 2024—10:00am to 2:00pm



Would you like to make a difference to clubs in #TeamCW, we are looking for enthusiastic lions to join our talent pool of those we can call upon to help clubs that are struggling or to help us establish new clubs.

This workshop will be held on zoom.

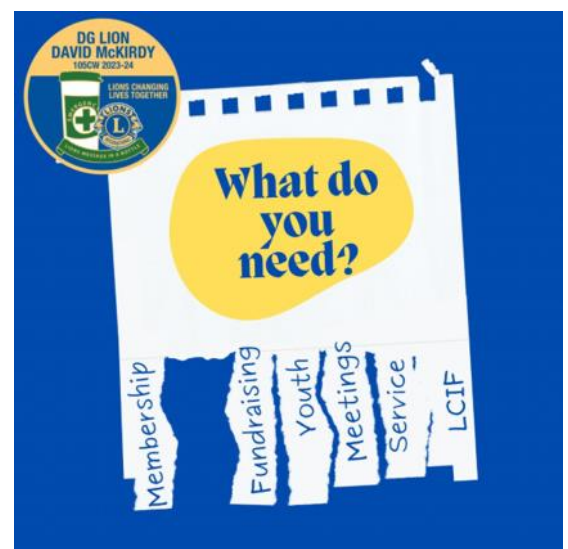
Please register by emailing our District Leadership Team Lead Melissa Murphy glt@lions105cw.org.uk stating that you would like to join the course, your club and any positions you have held at Club, District and Multiple District level.

The link will be sent you in a separate email.

If there are any other topics for a workshop that you as a Lion think would be helpful to others too please get in contact and we will see if it can be planned and arranged.

Yours In Service

Lion Melissa Murphy (GLT Lead)



105CW YOUTH PROJECTS

The end of the calendar year is a busy time for our district with many youth projects approaching the judging stage. Entries for Peace Poster & Peace Essay, Young Ambassador of the Year and Lions Roar have all been received and have been submitted to the various judging panels.



LIONS ROAR is a Multiple District project that is run in conjunction with 8billion ideas. 134 primary schools across Multiple District 105 were received, with young people submitting their ideas on how they would improve the environment. 8 clubs from across our district sponsored 18 primary schools, all of whom submitted incredible ideas and solutions to many different environmental issues.



The judging panel had a very difficult job but after much deliberation Pembroke Primary School was chosen as the winning entry for 105CW. The school was sponsored by Chepstow & Caldecot Lions Club who have supported this youth project since it was rolled out across the Multiple District 3 years ago. The winning team can be seen in the picture along with their teacher who had the amazing idea of a solar powered backpack that could be used to help supply power to all the different electrical items we use daily. It could even be used to support the electricity used within their school.



YOUNG AMBASSADOR of the YEAR judging took place at National Headquarters on Sunday 26th November 2023. We are delighted to announce that Leyla Mughal, sponsored by **Shirley Lions** has been selected as our Young Ambassador candidate for this Lions year.

Leyla is, in the words of Solihull Young Carers, is an incredible young carer who is a dedicated Peer Mentor and her commitment to the Peer

Mentoring and Befriending project shows in her consistent loyalty and hard work. The peer mentoring project allows Leyla to support other young carers who live a similar lifestyle with challenging caring roles. Leyla helps other young carers to develop their self-esteem and to realise what it is to be a proud young carer, concentrating on overcoming all the difficulties that they may face at school and in life in general. It is known that sessions with mentors like Leyla make positive impacts and help create respite for this group of vulnerable young group of people.

As a district, I'm sure we all offer our support to Leyla as she progresses to the MD Finals over the weekend of the 16th to 18th February 2024 at the Village Hotel in Dudley.



PEACE CONTEST. (Lead with Compassion)



This year saw 5 entries submitted to the Peace Poster competition with entries coming from 5 Lions Clubs across our district. Judging took place after Autumn Forum when the District Cabinet had the difficult task of choosing our winner to go forward to Multiple District judging. The overall standard was very high with the winning entry coming from John Kyrle High School who were sponsored by Ross on Wye Lions.



Young people, their family and friends are the future for Lions so if your club would like to get involved in any of the Youth Projects please contact a member of the youth team or simply email youth@lions105cw.org.uk

Club News

Sandwell Lions Christmas Activities

After providing Santa, his sleigh, and some Elves for the 'Langley Lights Switch On' we enjoyed a tasty curry.

Our newest member Harpal answered the call to deliver a supply of reindeer antlers to a local school.

We have been joined by jolly members of **Birmingham Chinatown** and **Dudley Lions** on some of our Sleigh runs and have received lots of lovely comments from our Facebook followers.

We enjoyed a traditional Christmas lunch at The George pub that kindly has one of our collection tins at the bar before a Sunday Sleigh Run

We have also bought items and compiled and delivered Christmas Packs to the Sandwell Homeless and Resettlement Project.



Baby's First Christmas seeing Sandwell Lion's Santa Sleigh



Black Mountains Lions Spread a Little Christmas Cheer

The Black Mountains Lions has been busy packing and delivering Christmas gifts for 100 local people needing to be cheered-up over the Christmas and New Year period. The Christmas treat bags contain biscuits, sweets and chocolates and a Christmas card from the **Black Mountains Lions**. The bags will be delivered by Lions during the 9 days between the 14th of December and Christmas Eve. We hope that these small gifts will remind people that we are thinking of them at this time of year. Christmas can be a difficult time for the bereaved and those who live alone. Our area is very rural and sparsely populated, it has many isolated settlements in the mountains. The recipients of the bags live in Hay-on-Wye, Talgarth, Clyro, Lowes, Dorstone, Brilley, Rhosgoch, Llanigon, Glasbury, Three Cocks and Bronllys, plus many isolated hamlets.

Choosing people to receive the gifts was carried out by our local charity partners, except for those who are in-patients at our local Community Hospital at Bronllys who automatically get a bag. People receiving the Christmas treats were selected by both Hay and District Dial-A-Ride, a charity who provide a transport service to their members who are either disabled, elderly or carless; and by Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations (PAVO). The **Black Mountain Lions** have previously supported Dial-A-Ride and are doing so again to help them buy a better small bus.



North Sea Lions

Our project in Laoac is progressing steadily.

Walls are closed and the inside is being taken care of now as well. Soon windows will be placed. The end is nigh!

Your support for this project and the other projects NSL is involved in is most welcome. Together we can do bigger things.



Wotton Lions - Firefighters to the rescue

For many years **Wotton Lions** have ensured that Christmas trees are put up in the shopping streets in Wotton.

This year, due the insurance issues that a lot of clubs are experiencing we could not get cover in time for us to go up a ladder. We needed a solution as letting down our community was not an option.

Step forward our local firefighters. They agreed to take on the role and operate it as a fire service exercise under their insurance.

The Lions provided all the support but remained on the ground.

Trees in place, town still proud of

the work Lions do and the FBU Charity supported by a donation from us. **We served, just!**



Christmas Under the Edge

Wotton Lions were out again this year offering our hot pork rolls. President Geoff Richardson said: "it is a great event and as well as supporting our fundraising gives us an opportunity to tell people about Lions.

WARWICK LIONS always find themselves super busy at this time of year.

Starting in November when jointly with the Rotary Club of Warwick we welcome some 5.000 or so visitors to our firework display at the race course, we move swiftly on to assist the Side by Side Theatre Company with the front of house arrangements for their annual show at the Spa Centre in Leamington, take our Tombola stall to Warwick's Victoria Evening, dress a Lions Christmas tree for St.Mary's Church Christmas Tree Festival, distribute some 200 Christmas food parcels for the needy of the area and then on 16th.

December comes the highlight of our year, the Carol Concert at Warwick Castle.

Pictured is our contribution to the Christmas Tree Festival.





Thanks to the Lions of the British Isles and the support of Lions Clubs International Foundation over the past 25 years, we have been rebuilding the Country formally known as Yugoslavia. There is still much more to do, please let us continue with the work that we have started.

Is your Club out and about with Santa- please remember any foreign coins in the tin send into Lions Clubs National HQ to support the Gift for Living project.

Your Gift for Living Project needs your foreign notes and coins...

- If you are on a lovely Christmas break and arrive back home with coins and notes why not donate them to Gift For Living?
- Send them to Lions Clubs National HQ, where they will be sent to a specialist dealer.
- We accept any currency Inc. UK coinage and notes, even pre-Euro currencies such as Spanish Pesetas or Greek Drachma.
- Why not arrange a collection at your local School, Church or place of work.

Gift for Living website is on the following link
<https://www.lionsclubsinternational-agiftforliving.org.uk>



Lions Clubs International
MD105 British Isles
Tel: 0345 833 9502
Email: nationalheadquarters@lionsclubs.co.uk
Web: www.lionsclubsinternational-agiftforliving.org.uk
Lions Clubs International A Gift for Living Charity Reg. No. 1070418

