



# IRONBRIDGE AND SEVERN GORGE LIONS

## NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2024

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Welcome to our monthly newsletter for September 2024. As usual, this is intended to update our community of Friends on recent events plus upcoming activities and identify areas where we would welcome help or support. You can find more information about upcoming events and activities for the next few months on our website – <https://ironlions.org.uk>

For further information or to offer comments or suggestions contact Graham Powell (07887 638207 [grahamj.powell@btinternet.com](mailto:grahamj.powell@btinternet.com)) or Colin Thompson (07970 417497 [cthompson@bcs.org.uk](mailto:cthompson@bcs.org.uk))

### Prostate Testing



There has been very significant progress this month on our plans for the 2025 PSA testing programme. We are now able to confirm that the next test session will take place at the Abraham Darby Academy in Madeley on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2025. We have 312 test slots available at that event and, as for all our recent test events, prior booking is essential.

There will be no mandatory charge for these tests, but we do rely very heavily on donations to enable us to maintain our test programme. Each test costs our club around £28 – a total of almost £9000 for this event. So, as for previous years, we will be inviting those tested to make a donation on the day.

To book your test, just go to <https://mysatests.org.uk> log on if you have had a previous test with us or otherwise register and then scroll down to find the 8<sup>th</sup> March event. Any problems just contact Lion Colin Thompson ([cthompson@bcs.org.uk](mailto:cthompson@bcs.org.uk) or 07970 417497)

### Supporting YMCA



We have considerable admiration for the work that the YMCA does in providing supported housing to young people aged 16-25 who are homeless or have a housing need. Their tenants often come from extremely chaotic situations and the goal is to provide support and opportunities for them to start afresh

Our picture shows Lions Pam and Sam on a recent visit to deliver four mobile phones to YMCA Support Team Leader Louisa Howells-Morgan. These were purchased for new care leavers starting their journey with the YMCA. The aim is to enable them to maintain contact in their first few weeks and the phones can be passed on to other users as and when required.

## And Maninplace



Another outing for Pam and Sam, this time to deliver a donation of food to Maninplace - a local organisation providing supported emergency and longer-term accommodation for people rough sleeping or homeless in the borough of Telford and Wrekin

Established in 2006 as a not-for-profit community enterprise, Maninplace set out to provide accommodation for those who were unable to access social housing and private sector rental properties due to limited income and lifestyle. It is a great local cause which we are proud to support.

## And Telford crisis Support



Our picture shows Lion David Liddle delivering a food donation to Telford Crisis Support earlier this month. Until very recently the provision of food support was essentially a pre-Christmas activity for our Lions club; more recently it has become a year-round programme. This year we delivered 82 bags of food through Telford-based charity organisations between April and July.

With winter approaching the need for food support increases very significantly and as we noted in last month's newsletter, we will again be aiming to collect over 4 tonnes of food for distribution over the Christmas period.

If you would like to help us in that task, why not join our **100 Bag Challenge**. Just buy a few extra non-perishable items when you go shopping, put them in a spare carrier bag and when the bag is full, call either of these numbers– Andy on 07771 753855 or Sam on 07871 527247

## Another great fashion show



Another excellent Ironbridge Lions fashion show event this month. Dawley Town Hall was the venue for our third fashion show held, like the previous two, in conjunction with a great team From the "Colours" organisation.

<https://www.coloursfashionshows.com>,

All seats for the event were sold out in advance and the ladies had a great evening watching the show of branded clothing before purchasing the items at discount prices. A thoroughly enjoyable evening.

## And another Quiz night



Earlier this year we spent an enjoyable quiz evening at the Cock Hotel Wellington, and we were delighted when landlords Simon and Louise offered to dedicate another quiz night to the club on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October. Why not come along and join in - It's a great night in a very friendly atmosphere; the quiz starts at 7.30 and it costs just £5 per table to take part.

## A sad story



Our club has had a very long-standing relationship with St Georges School and we were saddened recently to receive a support request from the school for the family of one of their very young pupils. The request read as follows:

*"She is a beautiful member of our school community, who at the age of 6, is already known by so many for being a delight. She is a member of a lovely, caring, supportive family with 2 older siblings and 1 younger, all who are part of the St. George's family. Sadly, during the summer holidays, she became unwell, and within a very short period of time was diagnosed with Rhabdomyosarcoma... a very rare and*

*complicated stomach cancer. She is now and will be for many months to come, being treated in Birmingham Children's Hospital.*

*The impact emotionally, logistically and financially on this family is huge, as you can imagine. As you will understand, there is a huge financial burden created by travelling to Birmingham daily, along with loss of pay from employment. Therefore, I am asking, if there is anything that Ironbridge Lions could do to assist this family in need."*

The club made an immediate support donation through the School but this is a family which is going to need support and assistance for some considerable time. We will of course endeavour to maintain support and to report progress in future editions of this newsletter. **In the meantime, if you would like to help this family by making a support donation, please contact Lion Colin Thompson (07970 417497 or email [cthompson@bcs.org.uk](mailto:cthompson@bcs.org.uk))**

## And Finally

Ironbridge and Severn Gorge Lions Club is part of Lions Clubs International, the world's largest service club organization with 1.35 million members in over 45,000 clubs in more than 200 countries and geographic areas. Our primary purpose is to work together in a spirit of friendship to serve the needs of our local community. If that appeals to you and you think you might like to join us, why not come along to one of our monthly meetings? You would be most welcome and there would be no pressure to join if you felt that it wasn't for you. We meet at Coalbrookdale Community Centre and if you are interested in attending just contact our Secretary Andy Pilsbury (07771-753855 or email [Mullburyap@gmail.com](mailto:Mullburyap@gmail.com))

If you need information about Ironbridge Lions' activities in between these monthly bulletins, the best source is our Facebook Page. Just go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and type Ironbridge and Severn Gorge Lions in the search box.