



IRONBRIDGE AND SEVERN GORGE LIONS

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2024

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Welcome to our monthly newsletter for November 2024. As usual, this is intended to update our community of friends on recent events and upcoming activities and to 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) or Colin Thompson (07970 417497 cthompson@bcs.org.uk)

Prostate Testing



As reported here over the past few editions of the newsletter, our next prostate session is at the Abraham Darby Academy, Madeley, on Saturday 8th March 2025. We have a total of 312 appointment slots available on that day and at the time of writing just 88 of those slots remain available.

Our testing is conducted in collaboration with the Graham Fulford Charitable Trust and their [website](#) provides a lot of useful information about the risk of prostate cancer in relation to age, and the part that PSA testing plays in the identification of possible prostate cancer. The booklet “Prostate Cancer Knowledge Empowers” is also a useful source of information and you can download a copy by clicking the illustration shown left.

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

Supporting Rough Sleepers



When the weather turns to freezing cold as it did earlier this month, it is sobering to consider that there are a significant number of people sleeping rough within our community.

It was against that background and following a discussion with Paul Sansome, the Outreach Coordinator at the charity Stay, that we arranged a donation of sleeping bags and boots which were presented by Lion Carol Powell just before Paul set off to check on the night's rough sleepers.

Stay introduced the Homeless Outreach Co-ordinator as a service to assist homeless people into services offering accommodation and support, and to help those at risk of becoming homeless by providing advice and exploring preventative measures.

The co-ordinator's job is to make contact, assess each individual's needs and assist in finding both short- and long-term solutions to meeting those needs.

Used Spectacles



An estimated 120 million people worldwide are visually impaired as a result of uncorrected refractive errors (far and near sightedness) and the lack of available eyeglasses denies many of them opportunities for education, employment and a better quality of life.

Lions in the UK have been collecting used spectacles since 1967 and now collect over one million pairs every year. We opened our second recycling centre in the National HQ in Birmingham in October 2021, and earlier this month Lions Colin Thompson and Graham Powell made their quarterly trip to the headquarters in Birmingham carrying around 1800 pairs of donated spectacles. Ironbridge Lions now collect used spectacles from opticians right across Shropshire –see the full list [HERE](#)

If you have any old spectacles hiding in drawers at home, why not drop them off at one of our participating opticians.

Following the Donated Food

In last month's newsletter we covered the Harvest Festival celebration at Redhill Primary Academy, and we mentioned the plan for some of the children to follow the food as it moves on to local charities. And so it was that, on the 12th of November, two groups of students from the school had the opportunity to follow the donated food to two of our local charities.



One group, accompanied by Headteacher Claire Whiting, visited the YMCA New College apartments in Wellington where they were welcomed by local YMCA Chief Executive Mandie Mulloy and Louisa Howells-Morgan, the Support Team Leader. The second group went to the Maninplace HQ in Priorslee, where Manager Rose Hill gave a brief presentation of the services provided by the charity and answered some surprisingly searching questions from the young visitors.

All in all, a very successful day which was very clearly enjoyed by all the young people involved, by the representatives of the two charities and, it must be said, by the Lions involved in the visit.

Lions Roar at Redhill Primary School



Having accompanied the YMCA and Maninplace visits on 12th November, Lions Graham Powell and Colin Thompson were back at Redhill Primary Academy on the following afternoon for the final, judging stage of the ROAR project

ROAR is a national Lions programme for primary schools designed to give a platform to young people to “think big and positively change the world”. Ironbridge Lions sponsored the Redhill Primary Academy’s after-school STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) group

to take part in this year’s nationwide ROAR programme.

There was certainly plenty of creative thinking and innovation on display when the group presented their ideas in the form of working models. A pair of night spectacles, a prototype portable turbine for emergency use, two mobile powered cleaning tools, a solar food heater and finally a pair of wheeled devices, fitted with cameras, for tracking wayward cats and dogs.

It was never like this when we were at school, but it was good to see the enthusiasm and the ingenuity among the young students and we felt privileged to be part of it.

Christmas Food Collections



As anticipated, our primary focus for November has been on the collection, sorting and packing of the 4 tonnes of non-perishable foodstuffs needed to create the 400+ food parcels we aim to distribute before Christmas. During the month Lions teams were out in various parts of the area, including

Madeley, Sutton Hill, Wellington, Ironbridge, Homer Lake, Priorslee, Aqueduct, Coalbrookdale and Little Wenlock. Once again, we were delighted to have the support of the young Volunteer Police Cadets for the Lees Farm and Sutton Hill collections.

All food collected is taken back to our home base where it is sorted and packed into bags ready for distribution before Christmas. The picture shows Lions Sam, Pam, David and Andy with just part of the food collected.



Smiles for Christmas

This will be our final newsletter for 2024, and it seems appropriate to end on a Christmas-related item. The charity Christmas Smile was founded in 2013 with the vision that no child, or adult for that matter, should go without one special gift from Santa.



Not everyone in our community has a roof over their heads, a loving family, food on the table or presents under the tree. So, the aim is to give a Christmas surprise to each person living in Telford who is experiencing difficulties, and each year Christmas Smile gives out 10,000 gifts to more than 2000 members of the Telford Community.

We have supported Christmas Smile regularly in past years and this year is no exception. President Kevan and Lion David visited Kate at Christmas Smile to donate a large number of Cadbury's chocolate selection boxes for inclusion in the Christmas parcels

And Finally

It remains only to thank you for reading this newsletter over the past year and to wish you and yours all the very best for Christmas and the New Year. We will be back with our first edition of 2025 at the end of January.

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)

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 and type Ironbridge and Severn Gorge Lions in the search box.



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