# THE LIONS' ROAR

## 34th CHARTER CELEBRATION • 30 OCTOBER 2026

## A YEAR OF SERVICE • FRIENDSHIP • COMMUNITY SPIRIT

# RUGELEY & DISTRICT LIONS CLUB

## WELCOME TO OUR YEAR IN REVIEW!

### Making a Difference, One Act of Kindness at a Time

**Since our last Charter in November 2025, our members have been out and about raising funds, supporting local charities, helping families and bringing our community together.**

**From Christmas toys and Easter hampers to concerts, collections and charitable donations, our year has been filled with opportunities to make a difference.**

**Behind every activity are hours of planning, shopping, organising and volunteering. We are proud of what we have achieved together and grateful to everyone who has supported our work.**

**Proud to serve our community. Proud to be Lions!**

## NOVEMBER 2025 REMEMBRANCE, ROYALTY & THE RUN-UP TO CHRISTMAS

### The Christmas Toy Appeal Gets Underway!

Our annual Toy Appeal launched at Tesco on 7 November. The campaign continued at the Brewery Street Centre on 22 November, where Debra, Mandy, Elaine and John Morgan dressed as elves, while Peter Fielding delighted children as our friendly Lion mascot.

Local residents were encouraged to donate toys to help children whose families were facing financial difficulties.




### Brave the Shave for Macmillan

Our good friend Joy Bradbury bravely took part in Brave the Shave in support of Macmillan Cancer Support. Debra attended, and our club donated **£500 to Macmillan.**

### Supporting Staffordshire Women's Aid

On 27 November, Debra delivered toys collected through our Christmas Toy Appeal to Staffordshire Women's Aid, helping bring festive happiness to children and families facing difficult circumstances.

### Remembering Those Who Served

On 11 November, Club President Debra Coburn attended the Armistice Day event at the National Memorial Arboretum, where she was honoured to meet Her Royal Highness The Princess of Wales. Earlier in the month, six Lions attended Rugeley's Remembrance service, with Debra laying a wreath at the Cenotaph on



### An Audience with King Henry VIII

On 22 November, we welcomed King Henry VIII, played by Jack Abbot, to St Augustine's Church. Eight Lions supported the event, with Debra, Elaine, Jane, Mandy, Bev from Cannock and volunteer Karen appearing in Tudor gowns. Elaine even made the headdresses! The evening was well attended and received excellent feedback.

### Caring for Our Lions Shelter

Debra, John Parkes, Jane and Pauline visited the National Memorial Arboretum on 24 November to help clean the Lions Shelter, maintaining this special place for visitors to enjoy.

### Banner at Lichfield Cathedral

Debra and Jane Stevenson visited Lichfield Cathedral on 18 November for a project celebrating local community groups. One of our original bannerettes was incorporated into a table runner representing organisations from the area. The runner was created for the impressive Black Jubilee Oak Table, which was on display at the Cathedral. It was wonderful to see a piece of our club's identity included in a celebration of our local community.



### Christmas Lights Switch-On

On 29 November, Peter once again became our friendly Lion, accompanied by Debra and Mandy as elves, promoting the Toy Appeal and Santa's Sleigh. After touring businesses around town, the team was invited onto the stage alongside local dignitaries for Rugeley's Christmas Lights Switch-On.

# DECEMBER 2025 THE MONTH WHEN OUR LIONS REALLY ROARED!

**December is always one of our busiest months, and 2025 was no exception!
Our four major commitments were the Christmas Toy Appeal, Santa's Sleigh, Christmas Dinner Hampers and our Christmas Tree Festival entry.**

## The Christmas Toy Appeal: Bringing Smiles to Children

On 2 December, Debra received a generous donation of toys from Needwood Ladies Group.
The main distribution took place at Rugeley Rose Theatre on 9 December, organised by Debra in partnership with the theatre. Debra and Elaine coordinated the day, welcoming representatives from local schools and charities to collect toys for children in need.
Organisations collecting toys included Chase View Primary School, Forest Hills Primary School, John Bamford Primary School, Churchfield Primary School and the Childhood Cancer Charity.
Further deliveries followed on 10 December to Etching Hill, Hob Hill and Hayes Meadow schools in Handsacre.
The appeal also involved regular collections from our designated drop-off points and deliveries to organisations unable to attend the main distribution.
On 13 December, our Lionesses Debra, Elaine and Mandy held a pre-loved toy sale at St Augustine's Church during the Christmas Tree Festival, raising additional funds for the appeal.
On 22 December, Debra delivered further toys to a domestic violence organisation in Lichfield for families needing extra support.
Every donation helped us bring a little more Christmas happiness to children and families in our community.




## Santa's Sleigh Is on the Move!

Under the direction of Treasurer Peter Fielding, our joint Santa's Sleigh project with Rugeley Rotary got underway on 7 December.
Peter and John Morgan, together with Rotary members Pat and Ron and volunteer Carl, worked on preparing the sleigh for its festive duties.
Throughout December, Lions and volunteers gave their evenings to touring local streets from 6pm to 9pm, with additional afternoon appearances outside Tesco, Aldi and Morrison's.
Lions involved included Peter, John Morgan, Elaine, Debra, Pauline and John Parkes.
It takes considerable organisation and teamwork to keep Santa's Sleigh running, and we thank everyone who gave their time to help spread Christmas cheer.




## Christmas Tree Festival

Elaine Morgan designed and handmade every decoration for our club's entry at the St Augustine's Church Christmas Tree Festival.
The tree was set up on 8 December, with the festival running from 9 to 16 December.
A lovely creative contribution that helped represent Rugeley & District

## A Festive Musical Celebration

On 20 December, we hosted a Christmas concert at St Augustine's Church featuring Haywood Community Choir and Uttoxeter Brass Band. The concert brought music and festive cheer to the community and provided a fitting way to celebrate the season.

## Christmas Dinner Hampers: Sharing the Festive Spirit

Christmas can be a particularly difficult time for families struggling financially, so our Christmas Dinner Hamper project once again aimed to make a difference.
Debra and Peter began the shopping on 2 December, purchasing chickens, roast potatoes, vegetables, gravy, Christmas puddings and custard.
Further shopping trips and deliveries took place on 17 and 18 December, with Debra, Elaine and Mandy working hard to ensure that families received their provisions before Christmas.
Hampers were provided through Rugeley Food bank, Vysions, Chase View Primary School and families identified by the Good Shepherd community group.
Two delivery days were needed to accommodate the school arrangements and ensure the chickens could be stored safely.
It was a wonderful example of Lions working alongside local organisations to provide practical help when it was needed most.




## Supporting Katharine House Hospice

On 6 December, Debra attended the Light up a Life outdoor service in support of Katharine House Hospice, accompanied by Rob Sullivan, whose wife Chris had sadly died from cancer.
A major fundraising event had previously taken place at Lea Hall Social Club on 24 October in Chris's memory.
Following the ceremony, our club presented a £500 donation to Katharine House Hospice. A fitting tribute to Chris and a contribution towards the hospice's important work supporting patients and families.

# FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2026

## SPRING INTO ACTION !

### Helping Little Ones Get Started

On 5 February, Debra, Peter and Mandy donated baby toys to Reverend Julia for use at a new playgroup at Good Shepherd Church.
A small but meaningful contribution to help provide a welcoming environment for young children.

### Queen Elizabeth I comes to Colton

On 10 March, historian and performer Lesley Smith entertained audiences at Colton Church as Queen Elizabeth I.
Debra, Elaine, John, Mandy, Pauline, Jane and Peter were on duty to support the event.
Our historical talks continue to offer audiences an enjoyable evening while helping raise funds for our charitable work.



### Collecting for Marie Curie

Our fundraising continued with collections for Marie Curie.
Pauline collected at Tesco on 28 February, followed by a collection at Morrison's on 4 March involving Debra, Mandy, Jane, Pauline, Elaine and John.
Thank you to everyone who stopped to donate and support this important cause.




### .Charity SOS Fashion Show

On 16 March, we held a charity fashion show at St Augustine's Church Hall. Debra and Elaine modelled alongside two volunteers, while Pauline sold entry tickets.
A mixture of fun, fellowship and fundraising!



### Easter Eggs and Hampers

Our Easter preparations began on 13 March, when an Easter egg donation point was established at Community Church. On 19 March, Debra and Peter shopped for Easter eggs, with Tesco kindly donating eggs to support our efforts. They also visited Horsefair Nursing Home to contribute to its community Easter egg collection for onward distribution to Churchfield School.

Further shopping took place on 24 March, when Debra, Elaine and Mandy purchased ingredients for our Easter Dinner Hampers. Similar to our Christmas project, the hampers included ingredients for a chicken dinner, with Easter cakes and chocolate treats replacing the traditional Christmas pudding. Hampers were distributed through Rugeley Food bank, Vysions and Chase View Primary School.

On 26 March, Debra and Mandy delivered Easter eggs for pupils at Forest Hills and Chase View Primary Schools.

On 31 March, Debra and Peter handed further Easter Dinner Hampers to Kate Waterworth from the Good Shepherd community group at Community Church Hall. Through the generosity of local supporters and the hard work of our members, we helped bring Easter treats and family meals to those who needed them.






# APRIL 2026 ST GEORGE, A DRAGON AND A CONCERT TO REMEMBER!

## Our Third St George's Day Concert

**On 23 April, Rugeley & District Lions Club hosted its third St George's Day Concert, organised by Debra Coburn.**

**The entertainment featured Becca Gee and Rich Parsons performing popular songs that got the audience dancing, while Millie White provided the Proms section of the evening.**

**Our Lions embraced the theme wholeheartedly!**

**John appeared as St George, Elaine became the dragon, and Debra and Mandy dressed as medieval princesses. Pauline helped with ticket sales.**

**Town Crier Adrian Basford and District Councillor Ken also contributed to the occasion.**

**The concert attracted a good audience and received excellent feedback. With such a positive response, this is looking set to become an annual fixture in our fundraising calendar.**




## Taking Our Promotion to the Streets

**With ticket sales initially slower than hoped, members took to the streets on 16 April, visiting shops and businesses around Rugeley in costume to promote the forthcoming concert.**

**A little imagination and plenty of enthusiasm helped spread the word!**













# MAY AND JUNE 26

# OUT AND ABOUT IN OUR COMMUNITY

## Staffordshire Day: The Story of Palmer the Poisoner




**On 1 May, we celebrated Staffordshire Day with a talk by former teacher Steve Booth at Rugeley Rose Theatre.**

**The subject was Palmer the Poisoner, one of the county's most notorious historical figures.**

**Debra, Peter, John, Elaine, John Parkes, Pauline, Mandy and Jane helped support the event.**

## Lichfield Bower: Lions Working Together

**On 25 May, Debra organised the participation of four Lions Clubs from the Zone at the Lichfield Bower. Representing Rugeley & District Lions Club were Debra, Peter, Jane and Mandy.**

**It was a wonderful opportunity to join fellow Lions and take part in one of the area's traditional celebrations.**











## Celebrating Our Volunteers

**On 23 June, Debra attended a Support Staffordshire event at Lea Hall Club.**

**Certificates recognising outstanding volunteering work were presented to Debra, Peter and Elaine.**






# RUGELEY CHARTER FAIR: SUMMER FUN!

**On 6 June, our club joined Rugeley's Charter Fair celebrations with a gazebo and Teddy Bear Tombola, which proved hugely popular with children.**

**We also took part in the parade dressed as summer festival-goers. Some people thought our outfits had a distinctly hippie feel!**

**Debra, Elaine, John and Mandy represented the club, with Chris from Cannock Lions wearing the Lion mascot costume. Geoff and Pam from Barton Lions helped run the tombola.**

**Rugeley was hosting the national Town Criers' competition, adding an extra dimension to the celebrations. Our Lions enjoyed mingling with the town criers during the parade.**

**A colourful day filled with community spirit, laughter and plenty of teddy bears!**






















# JULY 2026

## SUPPORTING PEOPLE, REMEMBERING HISTORY

### Remembering the Fallen




**On 5 July, Debra represented Rugeley & District Lions Club at a church service and exhibition at St Augustine's Church marking the anniversary of the Battle of the Somme.**

**Organised by the Royal British Legion, the event provided an opportunity to remember those who served and sacrificed so much.**

### Supporting Staffordshire Women's Aid

**On 9 July, Debra and Elaine visited Staffordshire Women's Aid with a substantial donation of summer essentials.**

**The items included sun lotions, toiletries and cleaning products to support the families using the organisation's services.**

**We were pleased to respond to practical needs and provide help that could make everyday life a little easier.**




### Community Garden Activities

**On 11 July, Debra represented our club at a Saturday morning family session at the Community Garden, continuing our involvement in local community activities.**







### Donations

**At our July club meeting, attended by District Governor John Fitchett, we were delighted to present two cheques for £500.**

**£500 to The Changing Room Counselling Service, which operates from Etchinghill Church and Community Church.**

**£500 to GB Open Karate Club, which runs classes for young people at Lea Hall Social Club.**





# AUGUST 2026

# LOCAL HEROES AND EXTRAORDINARY CHALLENGES

## Supporting a 50-Day Swimming Challenge

**On 9 August, Debra, Peter and Mandy attended the community leg of a 50-day swimming challenge supporting fundraising for Mihai's brother, who lives with Duchenne muscular dystrophy.**

**Our club presented a £250 donation during the event.. We were pleased to support this important fundraising effort and the family behind it.**









## Supporting MASE

**On 21 August, Debra, Elaine and John attended the Monthly Alzheimer's Social Evening at Lea Hall Club.**

**On 17 September, Debra presented a £500 donation to MASE, supporting its work with the local community.**






## A Football Journey for St Giles Hospice

**On 25 August, local hero James Lewis visited our meeting to receive a cheque for £500 for St Giles Hospice.**

**James had dribbled a football all the way from Marrakech to Rugeley to raise funds in memory of his father. An extraordinary challenge for a very worthwhile cause. We were proud to support him!**



# SEPTEMBER 2026

## CONTINUING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

### Community Day at Rugeley Rose Theatre

**On 5 September, Debra, Mandy, Pauline and Friend of Lions Bob attended Community Day at the Rose Theatre.**

**The event gave us another opportunity to meet local people and promote the work of Rugeley & District Lions Club.**






### Emma Hamilton

**Our programme of historical entertainment continued in September with Emma Hamilton, performed by Lesley Smith.**

**Following Debra's attendance at the July dress rehearsal, this event on the  9th September was another opportunity to bring history to life for local audiences.**

### Supporting Creative Performance Academy

**At our September club meeting, n the 23rd September, we presented a cheque to Creative Performance Academy, continuing our support for local organisations and community activities.**




### Football  Team Sponsorship

**On 20 September, Debra and Mandy attended a Lea Hall Tigers football match to see the players wearing the strip sponsored by our club during the year.**



# OCTOBER 26 CAKE, COFFEE AND HISTORY IN A MONTH COLOURED PINK

## Macmillan Coffee and Cake

**On the 5th October, Rugeley & District Lions raised £341 for Macmillan Cancer Support at a Coffee and Cake event at the refurbished Rugeley Rose Theatre. Visitors enjoyed homemade cakes baked by Lion Jane Stevenson, who has run Macmillan coffee mornings for ten years, alongside refreshments and a popular tombola featuring donated gifts. The club thanked Rugeley Town Council, Tesco and local businesses for their support. A special highlight was a visit from Staffordshire's Lord-Lieutenant, Mrs Liz Barnes, who joined Club President Debra Coburn for coffee and cake.**





## Wear it Pink Party

**On October 15th, Rugeley & District Lionesses raised £740 at their Wear It Pink fundraiser at the Pear Tree Club on 15 October, in support of Breast Cancer Now and the Katherine Allport Foundation. The total included a generous £100 donation from the club, presented by licensee Mark Eustace. Guests enjoyed a lively evening of pink outfits and music from singer Becca Gee. Thanks go to everyone who attended, donated raffle prizes and helped make the event a success, especially Mandy Shaw for rallying local support.**






# OCTOBER 26 HISTORY AND CHARTER

## Henry VIII at St Mary's Colton

**Rugeley & District Lions Club's "Audience with King Henry VIII" on the 17th October, was a memorable event at medieval St Mary's Church, Colton. Jack Abbott brought Henry to life in a performance written by John White, while Lionesses dressed as the six Queens, and a few friends helped create a Tudor atmosphere. Guests also enjoyed boxed buffets from local caterer HelloFlour. Club President Debra Coburn and Lions Elaine Morgan, Peter Fielding, Mandy Shaw, Jane Stevenson, John Morgan and John Parkes helped make the event a success.**







## Rugeley and District Lions Club Celebrate 34yrs.

**Today on the 30th October, we see our Club reaching and celebrating 34yrs of serving our Local Community.**



# NOVEMBER 2026

## CHRISTMAS APPEAL, HISTORY AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT

**A busy start to November, with our Christmas Toy Appeal underway, history brought to life, and our members supporting the community.**

## The Christmas Toy Appeal Gets Underway

**The Christmas Toy Appeal is officially underway! Our first donation point is now open at the ever-popular Wolseley Garden Centre. Club President Debra Coburn and Secretary Elaine Morgan, dressed as festive elves, joined manager Jack to get the appeal started in a wonderfully Christmassy setting.**

**We are inviting residents to donate a new, unwrapped toy or gift for children aged 0–18. For some local children, this may be the only present they receive — a gift that brings joy and reminds them that someone cares. The donation point is near the exit. The appeal runs until 16 December. Thank you for helping make Christmas brighter.**




## Sex and the Tudors: An Evening of History and Laughter

**On 3 November, Rugeley & District Lions Club welcomed historian Lesley Smith to the Rugeley Rose Theatre for her presentation, Sex and the Tudors. Lesley captivated the audience with stories of the marriages, mistresses, secrets and intrigues surrounding Henry VIII and his colourful circle. Her enthusiasm, humour and engaging storytelling brought Tudor history to life, with fascinating revelations and plenty of laughter.**

**It was another successful evening for the club, bringing our community together for history with a cheeky twist. Thank you to Lesley, the Rose Theatre team and everyone who attended and supported the event.**



## Rugeley Lions Remember on Remembrance Day

**Members joined the Rugeley community to mark Remembrance Day and honour all those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country. Club President Debra Coburn laid the Club's wreath, accompanied by Lions Elaine and John Morgan and Mandy Shaw. We were proud to stand alongside the community in remembrance. Lest We Forget.**



## Thank You! Our SOS Charity Fashion Show Was Fantastic

**Our SOS Charity Fashion Show was a fantastic evening! Although the SOS team were delayed by an accident-related road closure on the A50, we were delighted they arrived safely. Once underway, everyone enjoyed a fun night of fashion and fundraising.**

**A huge thank you to SOS Charities, the ladies from St Augustine's who baked delicious cakes, our wonderful volunteer models, Lionesses Debra and Elaine and their friends, and everyone who came along to support us. Nights like this are what Rugeley & District Lions Club is all about!**



# MORE THAN FUND RAISING FRIENDSHIP IS AT THE HEART OF LIONS

## Friendship Is at the Heart of Lions

**Although helping others is our purpose, friendship and fellowship are an important part of club life.**

**Throughout the year, members enjoyed social occasions including a visit to Hoar Cross Hall, a Christmas lunch at Weston Hall, an ABBA-themed evening at Rugeley Rose Theatre, St Patrick's celebrations at Staffordshire Coffee Lounge, the Stafford Charter social and Barton Lions' garden party. We also celebrated Debra's birthday in December and Elaine's 65th birthday in August.**

**These occasions give us time to relax, laugh, support one another and strengthen the friendships that help keep our club moving forward.**

## Christmas Cheer

**Amid the Christmas rush, members also enjoyed a social visit to Hoar Cross Church and lunch at Hoar Cross Hall on 4 December, celebrating Debra's birthday early.**

**Our Christmas Lions lunch followed at Weston Hall on 19 December.**

**Because Lions is about friendship as well as service!**



## Celebrating a Milestone

**On 12 August, Elaine celebrated her 65th birthday with a Lions social at Weston Hall. Joining Elaine were Debra, John, Mandy, Peter and Jane.  A lovely opportunity to celebrate friendship and enjoy time together away from our busy fundraising calendar!**



## ABBA and St Patrick's Day

**On 13 March, our Lionesses Debra, Elaine and Mandy enjoyed an ABBA-themed social evening at Rugeley Rose Theatre.**

**On 14 March, Debra, Elaine, John and Mandy celebrated St Patrick's night at Staffordshire Coffee Lounge**



## Meeting Rugeley's Spudman!

**On 21 August, Debra and Elaine met the famous jacket-potato sensation Spudman ahead of his appearance in Rugeley the following day. Excitement was already building, with queues reportedly beginning at midnight!**





## Supporting Fellow Lions

**On 19 June, Debra, Mandy, John, Elaine and Pauline attended the Stafford Charter social, strengthening the friendships and connections that make our wider Lions community so special.**



## Barton Lions Garden Party

**22nd August saw us enjoying the sunshine, in a beautiful setting for  Barton Lions Garden Party.**





# THE DIFFERENCE WE MAKE

## OUR CHARITABLE GIVING

**Supporting local organisations and worthwhile causes remains at the heart of everything we do.**

**During the year, our recorded donations included:**

**£500 — Macmillan Cancer Support**

**£500 — Katharine House Hospice**

**£500 — The Changing Room Counselling Service**

**£500 — GB Open Karate Club**

**£500 — St Giles Hospice**

**£500 — MASE**

**£250 — Mihai's 50-Day Swimming Challenge**

**£341 MacMillan**

**£740 Breast Cancer Now and the Katherine Allport Foundation Charity.**

**£500 to Katherine House Hospice, in remembrance of Chris Sullivan**

**£4,831.00  IN THESE TEN DONATIONS ALONE!**

**This figure represents the ten donations listed above, rather than the club's complete charitable giving for the year.**

**Further donations and fundraising achievements may be added to our final total.**

**Alongside financial donations, our members gave their time to collect and distribute toys, deliver Christmas and Easter food hampers, support local organisations, attend community events and provide practical help to families.**

**Every contribution matters, and every volunteer helps make our work possible.**

**THANK YOU, RUGELEY!**

**Together, We Make a Difference**

# LOOKING AHEAD TO OUR 35th YEAR.

**As we celebrate our 34th Charter, we would like to thank everyone who has supported Rugeley & District Lions Club during the past year.**

**To the local businesses that have supported our events, the organisations that work alongside us, the volunteers who give their time, and the residents who donate, attend our events and support our fundraising — thank you.**

**We are also grateful to our fellow Lions Clubs and Rotary colleagues for their friendship and cooperation.**

**Most importantly, thank you to our members, whose enthusiasm, generosity and commitment make everything possible.**

**From Christmas toys and Easter hampers to concerts, collections and charitable donations, our year has been filled with opportunities to help others.**

**As we look ahead, we remain committed to serving Rugeley and the surrounding district, supporting our community and making a positive difference wherever we can.**

**WE SERVE. WE CARE. WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

**Happy 34th Charter to Rugeley & District Lions Club!**

# LIONS — PROUD TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY