



Her Royal Highness The Countess of Wessex dedicates new Lions Shelter at the National Memorial Arboretum

HRH The Countess of Wessex, patron of Lions Clubs International in the British Isles and Ireland, officially opened our new shelter on Wednesday 14 September 2011 at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire.

As you know the Lions raised over £40,000 to create the purpose-built shelter so that visitors to the National Memorial Arboretum, which is part of The Royal British Legion family of charities, could take a rest or find refuge from inclement weather.

Covering 150 acres, the Arboretum is the UK's year-round centre of Remembrance; a spiritually uplifting place which honours the fallen, recognises service and sacrifice, and fosters pride in our country. Visitors from all walks of life number around 300,000 per year and include Service personnel, veterans, students of all ages, groups and individuals.

The new building has a screen where the names of members of our Lions family, who have passed to higher service during the last 12 months, are displayed. This will be renewed each year.

Proud of our work with young people in developing the ethos of peace around the world, we will also place the winning picture from our annual Peace Poster and Poetry Competitions on a screen for people to read and reflect upon.

Chair of Council, Tony Gadsby, comments: "Today's dedication shows the spirit of Lionism and our role in serving the community. We are delighted to provide this building so that the Arboretum's many visitors can shelter from the elements and take time to remember their relatives, friends and colleagues."

Charlie Bagot Jewitt, the Arboretum's chief executive, stated at the event: "We're very grateful to the Lions for their months of fundraising and their members' generosity. This shelter is a very welcome new facility and it will be much appreciated by the many visitors who explore our expansive site."

Video Link - <http://www.youtube.com/user/cannocklionsclub?feature=mhee>