

Soroptimist news

APRIL 2011



International Women's Day:
Meet me on the bridge!

<http://soroptimist-gbi.org>





Soroptimist International Great Britain and Ireland (SIGBI) Ltd.

Company Number: 07058666

Federation Office

Suite 2C, Beckwith House
1 Wellington Road North
Stockport, SK4 1AF
Tel: 0161 480 7686
Fax: 0161 477 6152
E: hq@soroptimistgbi.prestel.co.uk
W: <http://soroptimist-gbi.org>

President: Liz Morgan-Lewis
Immediate Past President:
Jackie Mosedale
President Elect: Maureen Maguire
Vice President: Pat Black
Finance Director: Jenny Vince
Executive Officer: Gina Coad

Soroptimist News:

Editor: Sheila Manchester,
Written Image Ltd, PO Box 234,
Uckfield, East Sussex TN22 9AH
T: 01825 733843 F: 01825 731845
E: soroptimist@written-image.com

Residential Club

63 Bayswater Road, London W2 3PH
T: 0207723 8575 F: 020 7723 1061
E: info@soropClub63.org.uk
W: www.soropClub63.org.uk

Change of address?

Please contact SIGBI Federation Office
to change the details -
not Soroptimist News.

Membership

30 June 2009 – 24 January 2011
New = 1082
Left = 1010
Died = 130
Total Members = 10179

Disclaimer

The views and opinions expressed in
this magazine do not necessarily
represent those of Soroptimist
International Great Britain and Ireland
(SIGBI) Ltd., or of the Editor.



from the editor

Gosh you are an active bunch!

Hundreds of thousands of women across
the world met on bridges large and small, in
cities, towns and villages, to celebrate the 100th
International Women's Day on 8th March – and a
great number of those women were Soroptimists.
Well done for taking the time to support this
event; we only have space to include some of the
reports and, as we go to press, they are still pouring
in, so if we missed out your Club, I'm sorry, but we
did our best!

And doing your best is something women know
all about. SIGBI members braved the frozen streets
of New York to attend the Commission for the

Status of Women (CSW55) in March, but they
were delighted they had made the effort; we have a
full report on Page 14, so be sure to read that.

We also have news of the SIGBI Conference
in Brighton, England in October. This is set to
be a humdinger of an event and it's not to be
missed. You can book right now online or using
the booking form in this magazine, catching the
early bird rates, and you'll need to sort out your
accommodation soon too, Brighton is a very busy
city – but you can have a great deal of fun too!

Brighton is just down the road from me, so I'm
lucky, no problem getting there. I hope you'll all
manage to come as well!

Please email contributions to:
soroptimist@written-image.com.

A Soroptimist request

A German Soroptimist writes:

Dear Sheila,

I am a Soroptimist from the Club Konstanz, Germany.
I write on behalf of a very dear friend of mine, whose
daughter Greta, aged 16, would love to live in England
for a period up to one year beginning from September
2010. She would like to live in a family, go to school
and join in the community. Her parents will take care
of all the costs occurring. I have known Greta's mother
and family since my youth and Greta since her birth.
They would be more than happy to host a British young
person, either during Greta's stay in GB or before or
after. I would love to support Greta and kindly ask for
your support. Interested families should contact:
Johanna Schaeffer, Mozartstr. 18, D – 77716 Haslach i.K.
T: +49-7832-1751 E: hanni-schaeffer@t-online.de

Greta writes: Hello my name is Greta, I'm 15 years old
and I live in the Black Forest in Germany. I have got a
younger sister (13) and an older brother (18). At school I
learn to speak English and I really enjoy it. This summer
I'll finish school and I would like to spend a year in an
English-speaking country because I would like to know
more about the different culture. And I'm also interested
in learning more English. I tried to do an exchange by an
organisation called "AFS", but it was just too expensive
so my parents couldn't pay it. Now my family would
like to find another family in Great Britain, who is also
interested in an exchange between August 2011 and
August 2012. Do you know any family with a boy or
a girl aged 16 and older, who would like to spend a
few months up to one year in a beautiful little city in
Germany? It lies in the south west, very close to France
and Switzerland. The countryside around Haslach is
very nice with lots of mountains and it's very well known
by tourists. In Haslach you can find a big open air bath,
a cinema, shops and many sports facilities. If you want to
see some pictures of Haslach here is the internet address:
<http://www.haslach.de/servlet/PB/menu/1088194/index.html>.
I hope you can help me to find someone who is also
interested on an exchange with my family and me.
Yours sincerely, Greta Schaeffer.

Science and the UK Parliament

For the last year and a half I have been
privileged to represent UK Soroptimists on the
Parliamentary and Scientific Committee. This
is a cross party committee which has allowed
Parliamentarians and others, for 70 years, to
get the best expert evidence on current issues.
Climate change and related issues are high on
the agenda.

The work of this committee cannot be
underestimated; it is a credit to it that
Parliament has set up a Select Committee
to deal with these issues. More importantly,
Parliament has set up a permanent office,
POST, Parliamentary Office for Science and
Technology, which provides expert, peer
reviewed briefings to Parliamentarians and all
interested parties. POST holds meetings on
current issues and I have attended meetings on
the production of rare earth metals and radio
bandwidth auctions. UKPAC has decided to
refocus its efforts on POST and I will continue
to report to it on that but withdraw from the
Parliamentary & Scientific Committee.

I took a large number of POSTnotes to the
last UKPAC and have almost none now. Issues
covered are Deforestation, Climate Change and
alternate Energy Sources. These are brilliant
peer reviewed documents on current issues,
that the UK Parliament is looking at. All the
teachers at UKPAC were very enthusiastic
about them and disappointed that they hadn't
had them earlier. The reviews are equally valid
for other countries.

These are exactly the types of briefings to
encourage girls to get into science, or politics,
or both. Whether you are in teaching or have
even the most basic interest in science, climate
change or science issues please look at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/post>
Moira Hutchings, SI Guildford & District

THE FOCUS FOR THE JULY ISSUE IS HEALTH. PLEASE SEND ITEMS FOR INCLUSION BY 1 JUNE TO Soroptimist@written-image.com MAXIMUM 350 WORDS + ONE PHOTO.



President Liz Morgan-Lewis in New York for CSW 55

The President's message: Inspirational visits to New York for CSW55 and London for International Women's Day

I have just returned from a wonderful week at the Commission on the Status of Women in New York. I had wanted to visit this meeting of Government delegations, NGOs and institutions ever since I first learned of its existence in my early years as a Soroptimist. It was a privilege to be able to attend and to be part of the energetic Soroptimist delegation and especially to meet with our UN representatives once again, who do such marvellous work for us at the UN. As usual the Programme Team had things well under control and daily arrangements were made for as many of the 'first timers' like me to attend as many of the official events as the rules would allow.

I was invited to speak at one of the workshops run by SI in partnership with the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) which was a great honour as well as being a

great deal of fun. Working with these young women is a delight; they are energetic, enthusiastic, articulate and inspiring. I was able to provide a tiny snapshot of the project work being done by SIGBI Clubs with the over 60s age group. I could have spoken for at least an hour, but I was allocated seven minutes!

A particular highlight of the week for me was the launch on Thursday evening of UN Women, for which some of us were fortunate enough to be allocated seats in the General Assembly room, which as you will all know from TV and photographs, is a magnificent room. Sitting between Past Federation President Ann Dawson and SISWP President Yvonne we couldn't stop ourselves from musing about who might previously have sat in those very seats to discuss some great historic event of peace or war.

The event was colourful, lively

and full of razzmatazz. All of the speakers were interesting and articulate, adding their congratulations and welcome to the new institution UN Women to be headed up by Executive Director and Under Secretary-General Michelle Bachelet.

I must highlight UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's words: 'I will support UN women in every way I can, with every ounce of my energy and commitment. You can count on me to work for a world where women are protected from violence; where girls can grow up safe, healthy and strong; a world that values and listens to women and girls. We are UN Women. Together, we can make this happen.'

It was a great event. Speaking to the young women (and, interestingly, many young men) who attended the next morning, their main reaction was: 'Wasn't Shakira great?'

Much more is written about CSW elsewhere in this issue, so please read and share our enjoyment of an uplifting, if very busy week, for which I thank you all for the privilege of attending on your behalf.

International Women's Day

Thank you all so much! I challenged you at the Manchester Conference to 'meet me on the bridge' on the hundredth International Women's Day – and you did – in your thousands! Thank you so much for the wide variety of initiatives you dreamed up to mark the date and to raise the profile of SIGBI. I did my bit too, at the event in London, with my 'famous for two minutes' speech on the platform alongside Annie Lennox, Cherie Lunghi, Bianca Jagger and Minister Lynne Featherstone. Thanks to all of you for helping to 'share our secret'!

Liz

Congratulations!



SI St. Vincent & the Grenadines (SISVG) proudly announces that Rene Baptiste,

Past President and Chairman, National Programme Action Committee was awarded the Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George (CMG) in the 2011 Queen's New Year's Honours for her service in Law, International Finance, Culture and Politics. She was a member of the ruling Unity Labour Party for two terms and served as Minister of Tourism as well as Culture with other portfolios attached. SHE magazine identified her as one of the top 10 powerful women in the Caribbean. Despite her busy schedule she still finds time to be involved in SISVG.

Getting to grips with the media



Sue Challoner, Mary McNaughton, Caroline Righton, Sheila Manchester

For the Regional Conference of SI South West & Channel Islands, President Mary McNaughton invited Sheila Manchester, Editor of Soroptimist News and Journalist and Soroptimist, Caroline Righton to give members media advice on getting our message across. Tips included: Appoint a Press Officer, get to know local journalists; take them out for a drink! Email good digital photos with interesting copy, a catchy headline and quotes. Submit items often. Work out who you want to target and find a way to approach them. Sue Challoner ADP for E & S D congratulated the Region on submitting 249 PRF's between 1st Nov 2009 and 12th Feb 2011, raising \$120,823, helping 35,825 women and 23,757 girls. Statistics worth shouting about! Photo by Wendy Plaice

Soroptimist magazines online

This issue of Soroptimist News, along with the previous issues, is accessible as a digital magazine directly from the SIGBI website, <http://soroptimist-gbi.org>. Do have a look at it and see just how useful the digital version can be! You can forward the link to the magazine to anyone with an email address, much easier than posting! The March digital issue of TIS, the magazine for all members of Soroptimist International is also now live and online. TIS brings news of SI activities, successes, visits, events and campaigns. The next issue will be available by 15th June. Visit the SI website: www.soroptimistinternational.org. To receive a direct link to each magazine please email: editor@soroptimistinternational.org.





L-r: Sue Biggs, Denise Staplehurst, Sylvia Fox, Diane Couch & Sue Taylor.

Across the world, members of Soroptimist International celebrated the 100th Anniversary of International Women's Day on and around 8 March 2011.

The first International Women's Day events were run in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland in 1911 and attended by over one million people. 100 years on, International Women's Day (IWD) has become a global mainstream phenomena celebrated across many countries. It is an official holiday in approximately 25 countries including Afghanistan, Russia, Ukraine, Vietnam and Zambia.

International Women's Day is a global celebration of the economic, political, and social achievements of women past, present, and future.

International Women's Day has been celebrated for 100 years and SIGBI has supported it since the early years, this year members supported Women for Women International's "Join Me on The Bridge" Campaign: www.womenforwomen.org/bridge on 8 March with 1200 women from multiple organisations, all marching across the Millennium Bridge.

Liz Morgan-Lewis, SIGBI President, spoke afterwards at the Royal Festival Hall along with Annie Lennox, Bianca Jagger, Lynne Featherstone (Equalities Minister) and others and Assistant Programme Director Jackie Paling was pictured cutting the 100th Birthday cake that she had made for International Women's Day.

SI ANGUILLA organised a rally for Women's Rights which was attended by representatives from organisations including the Teachers' Union, the National Council of Women, the Methodist Church Women, Family Hope Network, Sisters for Sisters, and Women in Development.

Soroptimist Lana Hoyoung chaired the event and implored all women to study the Domestic



Members on London's Millennium Bridge, flying the flag for SIGBI.



Monica Clarke, SI London Chilterns, with Annie Lennox

SIGBI CELEBRATES MEET ME ON THE BRIDGE 100th INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Violence Bill, soon to go before parliament, and to lobby for the adoption of the Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

Norma Hughes, wife of the Chief Minister, urged women to "Stand up and be counted, this International Women's Day 2011".

SI BLACKBURN celebrated IWD with a visit to the Quaker Tapestry exhibition in Blackburn Cathedral, viewing the panels on the abolition of slavery, and explaining Soroptimism and our work on Human Trafficking to the editor of the Quaker Embroiderers' Newsletter.

SI BOMBAY NORTH report that while education and economic empowerment have enabled many women to stride confidently into 21st Century there are many women still with little or no access to education and economic independence; especially in India.

The Club says that it felt it would be more appropriate and fruitful if they celebrated IWD with marginalised women by encouraging, appreciating, educating to empower them.

500 underprivileged women came from 50 Self Help Groups of Navjeet Community Centre (NGO) gathered at Apostolic Carmel School Hall, Bandra to celebrate International Women's Day. They were given opportunity to participate in the programme that brought professional speakers to discuss their rights and enlighten them on various social issues affecting their lives.

At the end of the event, cash awards were given to recognise and appreciate their achievements in their Self Help Groups.

SI BRADFORD arranged a day of events to celebrate the 100th International Women's Day. 20 Soroptimists joined the Lady Mayoress and her other guests for lunch. Lesley Horton a local



SI London Anglia brought 100 women together on the famous River Cam.



SI Canterbury met on a local bridge highlighting the challenges that women face.



SI Bombay North brought together 500 underprivileged women for IWD.



International Women's Day 2011





SI Brixham rallied in Torquay and then stepped out to promote IWD.

author spoke about her work with young women who had very harrowing tales. Donations raised £255 for the Barnardo's Turnaround Project.

A visit to City Hall for a Civic Reception and guided tour followed and then a truly international service arranged by Sandra Howard, SI Bradford's President, took place in the cathedral in the evening, before enjoying supper altogether. The evening collection realised £200 for Project Sierra.

SI BRECON & DISTRICT put on a display at the local library, Kirsty Williams their local AM at the Welsh Assembly who is an Honorary member gave her support. The display will be on show for a month.

SI BRISTOL staged a Fashion Show in aid of the Cystic Fibrosis Trust. SI Bristol President Sally Tullett, said "Cystic Fibrosis is one of the UK's most common life-threatening inherited diseases; it affects my family.

The Cystic Fibrosis Trust funds research, it ensures appropriate clinical care and it provides information, advice and support to families affected by the disease. What better way for women to celebrate International Women's Day than to combine beautiful clothes with raising funds for such a vital cause?"

SI BRIXHAM organised a rally at the Princess Theatre, Torquay with stands depicting aspects of Programme Action work. The rally was attended by both Brixham and Torquay Clubs, Inner Wheel, Women's section of The Royal British Legion and other ladies. The mayor of Torbay, Nick Bye also attended.

SI CANTERBURY met on their local bridge to celebrate women's achievements and put a spotlight on the challenges they continue to face.

SI COLCHESTER ran a number of events and finally celebrated with 100 Soroptimists and



Members of SI Colchester on Silver Street Bridge.

friends on Silver Street bridge with wonderful blue and pink placards to illustrate how things should change.

SI CRIEFF celebrated IWD with a potluck supper of international dishes using, in recognition of Fairtrade fortnight, Fairtrade products. National costumes added to the international atmosphere of the evening.

SI CROYDON members gathered with competitors and guests in the Council Chamber at Croydon Town Hall for the final of LOUD AND PROUD, a girls' public speaking competition. Six schools were represented.

The judging panel comprised the Director of Education, Alan Potter, Ted Craig, Director of the Warehouse Theatre, Cllr. Maria Gatland, Joanna Tomlin from Croydon Youth Parliament and Pauline Everett representing SI Croydon. The Mayor of Croydon, Cllr Avril Slipper presented the prizes. Croydon MP Gavin Barwell will be taking the prize winners and their guests on a tour of the House of Commons.

SI EAST GRINSTEAD gathered at Hartfield's world famous Pooh Bridge, along with SI Tunbridge Wells and SI Beckenham and District gaining excellent local media coverage.

SI FISHGUARD invited other local women's organisations – Inner Wheel, Merched y Wawr and Women's Institute - to mark the occasion with an exhibition in Fishguard Library. The theme was "Together we make a Difference".

SI GARSTANG invited Soroptimists from Clubs around the Region, and representatives from other women's groups, to join them on a local bridge to build a 'bridge of peace'. It proved a very successful and colourful event as they were also joined by several local mayors and the Garstang Town Cryer. As the world's first Fairtrade town, the event was combined with an



SI Bristol's fashion show combined fundraising, fun and celebration.

attempt to create the world's longest stretch of bunting, this will be assessed by judges in London from the Guinness Book of Records.

SI GRAVESEND held a Health Awareness Morning with speakers on breast cancer treatment and breast reconstruction, and prevention and treatment of diabetes and related illnesses.

SI KARACHI CENTRAL demonstrated courage and commitment in a country where international clubs are viewed with suspicion when members did indeed, join together on the bridge that day to stand together to show solidarity with the women of the world.

SI LANCASTER celebrated by helping to clear areas of brush and burning it to open up the woodland at Yealand Hall Allotments in Lancashire. This encourages violets, which are an essential foodplant for the caterpillars of the declining Pearl-bordered Fritillary. They worked together with volunteers from the Butterfly Conservation Trust and enjoyed a wonderful day of hard work and friendship whilst contributing to a worthwhile environmental project.

SI LONDON ANGLIA gathered 100 Soroptimists to create a 'human poster' on a bridge across the River Cam.

They were supporting the No Women No Peace campaign by illustrating the demand that UN peace teams should contain at least 40 per cent women and highlighted the point by turning blue men depicted on cards into pink women.

SI MORPETH remembered Emily Wilding Davison, a suffragette, who made her final, tragic demonstration at the Epsom Derby on the 13th June 1913 when she ran out onto the racetrack and was struck down by the Kings horse. Emily is buried in Morpeth. SI Morpeth members attended the remembrance and memorial service.



SI Croydon held the final of their 'Loud and Proud' public speaking competition.



SI Crieff held an international evening for IWD and celebrating Fairtrade Fortnight.



SI East Grinstead celebrated on one of the UK's most famous bridges: Pooh Bridge!



International Women's Day 2011





SI Oldham showcased organisations that focus on women's issues.

SI NORTHWICH held its 'Join us on the Bridge' event at HMP Foston Hall as the culmination of their Club project there. It was a very happy occasion as the last formal visit coincided with the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day.

The women had made a beautiful banner linking SI Northwich, Foston Hall and the 100th International Women's Day. They gathered at the small jetty by the lake at the Sanctuary – the nearest thing to a bridge at Foston Hall!

SI OLDHAM hosted a "Caring and Sharing" Open Day Event when members dressed up in various costumes to celebrate 100 years of International Women's Day. The event showcased sixteen of the voluntary and statutory groups in the borough, especially those connected with women's issues and was opened by Shobna Gulati, better known to many as Sunita Alahan from Coronation Street, who was joined by The Mayor and Mayoress of Oldham.

SI PENRITH welcomed visiting members from SI St Austell to their Join me on the Bridge event which took place at Brougham Bridge Brougham Hall, which was once the home of Lady Anne Clifford, a very determined woman. She was born in 1590 and when she was 15, her father died. She did not inherit her father's vast estate and it became her mission to regain it. Eventually she did inherit the estate in 1643, at the age of 60 and spent 26 years rebuilding churches and castles in the area.

SI POOLE joined Poole & Bournemouth Councils as they launched a six month project of celebratory stories of women, past and present, from both towns. They have to meet the criteria of: an inspiration, changed lives and made a real difference, shown strength or courage in adversity, overcome great hardship, significantly contributed to civic, business, creative or community life.

SI PUNE METRO EAST report that while women across the world marked the day



SI Penrith celebrated the commitment and determination of women!

with Bridge events, their Club honoured the Bridge itself – the Bridge that brings a girl from ignorance to knowledge – the Bridge is the teacher. For their country, education is vital and motivating the teachers is a constant need, so they launched their programme on 8 March meeting 28 teachers of two different schools. For SI Pune Metro East, the Women's Day will be a Women's Year as they plan to meet 100 teachers to reinforce their role as makers of future leaders, and those who will bridge the ignorance gap.

SI RUNCORN, FRODSHAM AND DISTRICT were "joined on the bridge" in the Delamere Forest, by members from six other Clubs in the region: SI Nantwich, SI Northwich, SI Heswall, SI Birkenhead, SI Bebington and SI Dolgellau. Also joining them were forty young people from the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme who, with some members, took part in a sponsored walk. Monies raised went to Project Sierra and Claire House, a children's hospice.

SI SLOUGH WINDSOR & MAIDENHEAD, SI HIGH WYCOMBE AND SI THAMES VALLEY organised a joint celebratory event where 100 women from 22 organisations heard talks on women's achievements over the last 100 years, including Girl Guiding, and also one called "Granny Flew Spitfires" about women pilots in World War Two. There was also a 100th birthday cake. Two singers gave a rendition of "Sisters".

SI STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS held a candle-lit dinner for Human Rights awareness with a candle for every SIGBI Club.

SI SCOTLAND SOUTH Regional President Eileen Hunter welcomed 60 members to the SI SS R 75th Anniversary Lunch. Every member received a copy the SI SS R 75th Anniversary Booklet, which President Eileen had prepared and the 75th Anniversary cake, made by Vice President SI Dunfermline, Isla Lumsden, was cut by Ann Garvie, Honorary Member and Past President of SI SS R, and Past Federation



Members of SI Poole with local councillors, looking for inspirational women.

President. At the end of the Lunch guests formed a Virtual Bridge, in the shape of an "S", by placing their hands on the shoulder of the person in front initially, and then by placing hands together with person standing next to them.

SI ST AUSTELL invited local women to join them on a bridge at the Eden Project. The Mayor, Jill Trehwella gave a dedication to International Women and President Kay read a poem from the Soroptimist book 'Voices in Verse'.

SI SWINDON organised a bridge event and was joined by representatives from several local women's groups and also Amnesty International.

SI THE FYLDE held an event "Speak Up for Women – turning Words into Actions together". Keynote speaker, Kirsty Henshaw, a single mum from Preston who won an award on Dragon's Den for her non-allergen desserts, gave an excellent talk on her struggle to achieve her ambitions, overcoming obstacles; she is an inspiration to young people everywhere.

SI TIVERTON presented "Women Then and Now" a display and Powerpoint demonstration in their local pannier market. The display was shown to staff and students at the Tiverton Petroc College the following week.



SIGBI President Liz Morgan-Lewis speaking at IWD in London.



SI Staffordshire Moorlands' candlelit supper with a candle for every SIGBI Club.



SI Northwich celebrated IWD at their project at HMP Foston Hall.



Kirsty Henshaw, an inspirational young single mum who spoke at SI Fylde's event.



Dear Hanne, Federation Presidents and Soroptimists,

Thank you once again for your extraordinary efforts in supporting our partnership in Sierra Leone, Project Sierra: A Family And A Future.

Since the launch of your Quadrennial Project in August 2007, you have raised over £784,000 towards a target of £1 million.

With only 6 months to go, I have no doubt that you will exceed your target, given your amazing enthusiasm and commitment so far.

Of course what really matters is that the lives of literally hundreds of children and young women are being transformed as a direct result of your hard work. The young mothers we work with have all suffered abuse of one form or another. Many of them have had babies and suffered further stigma from family or community members resulting in their isolation or exclusion from the community. The majority of them are forced to live on the street, often with their babies.

Project Sierra offers these young people skills training or access to schooling along with life skills, counselling, small business support, parenting skills and recreation in a safe atmosphere, while mediating with their families and communities for them to return home. We also work with key stakeholders in the community to take more responsibility for the welfare of these young people.

This year around 350 young women will receive direct support of this nature. At the same time we are working with many vulnerable families and single mothers in the community, who would have been at risk of breaking up and abandoning their children without your support.

I'm sure you would be interested to know that the Project Sierra is having a significant long term impact on society in Sierra Leone through our partnerships with:

- Community leaders - influencing changes in attitudes and behaviour towards young mothers and other vulnerable children
- Local representatives of the Ministry of Social Welfare - supporting the training of community workers and helping to enforce child protection laws
- Marie Stopes clinics - offering family planning and counselling services
- Local police - supporting the project through a change in attitudes, ensuring that young mothers are protected and free from further abuse
- Local businesses - offering work placement opportunities

The crucial thing you are giving these young people, most of whom have faced hardship and deprivation beyond our imagination, is the chance to regain their self respect. Thank you so much for your support.

Please do all you can to give a final push for Project Sierra, so that we can smash right through the £1 million target!

With all good wishes,
Rick Foulsham, CMG, Chief Executive,
Hope & Homes for Children

Project Sierra

Anne Macdonald OBE,
Project Sierra, Federation Quadrennial
Liaison, has an update for SIGBI members

Letter from the Chief Executive

In February we received a letter from the Chief Executive of Hope and Homes for Children, Rick Foulsham. This is reproduced here (left hand column).

Since receipt of Rick's letter we received good news from our International Project Liaison Officer, Alison Sutherland, confirming that the latest money sent from SI to HHC means that we have now reached the £800,000 mark in our fundraising. Well done everybody and keep up the good work.

Annual Report

In December we received, from Hope and Homes for Children, the Annual Report covering the year from August 2009 – July 2010. As usual, this summarises progress with each of the project components, much of which has been covered in previous articles, and includes a section on Financial Reporting. There is a section on 'Impact and Progress' which starts with the significant statement 'The progress can be measured against the desired outcomes of the project, as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding'. The two Study Tours undertaken in Year3 are listed in the section headed 'Highlights and Challenges' and, again, these have already been described.

There is, however, an interesting section headed 'The Wider Impact of the Project Sierra Partnership' which concludes with the following paragraph: 'In recognition of the effectiveness of the ACTIVE Family Support Model, our partner in Sierra Leone, HANCI-SL, has been recognised as the official arm of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs in Kamakwie. This is extremely important as it signifies official recognition of the effectiveness of our work and the influence we are having on the Government's approach to childcare'.

There is also a page devoted to 'The Development of HANCI-SL' which further reinforces the important effect that our funding has had towards building the capacity of HANCI-SL and the strategic change that Project Sierra is now taking.

To view the full report please visit the website www.projectsierra.org

UN Human Development Index

Whenever I visit Clubs and Regions to talk about Project Sierra I am conscious that the statistics that I quote never seem to change. I was delighted therefore to receive a recent letter from Alison Sutherland, in which she describes big mining enterprises getting underway,



Sally Curtis and Ruth Healey of SI Southern England are training hard for their marathon in Brighton on April 10th in aid of Project Sierra. To sponsor them visit: www.justgiving.com/soroptimist-intl-southeastengland-ProjectSierra.

bringing jobs and infrastructure improvements and, potentially, substantial income for the country in future years.

Alison goes on to say that Sierra Leone has had a significant jump up in the UN Development Index from 176/177 to 159th position. This is good news indeed and, as Alison says, 'It's good to be part of that with Project Sierra'.

Making a Difference – DVD

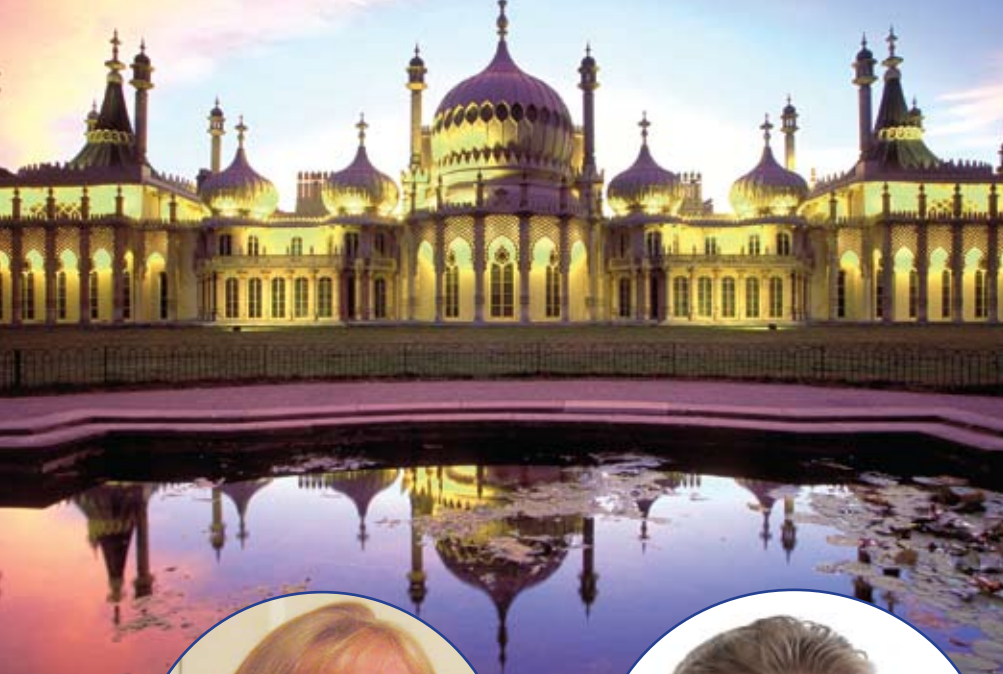


By the time you are reading this your Club will have received a letter from Joanne Wagstaffe at SIGBI, advertising the 'Making a Difference' DVD, that is now being sold for £5.00 (plus postage) with the proceeds going towards Project Sierra. The DVD, published in 2010, tells the stories of a few of our members and illustrates some of our recent project work. Some of the Ambassadors have a supply of the DVDs, so please check before sending any money. And, thank you to the FMB for the contribution to Project Sierra.

Jewellery Recycling

This initiative is really taking off and already almost £1000.00 has been raised. I do urge you however to think BIG and ask local shops and schools to participate and also to take collection bags to your places of work. Let's see just how much we can tap the potential of this scheme between now and July.





SIGBI Conference 27-29 October 2011



Ruth Healey, Chief Steward, Conference 2011



Tracy Gardiner, Chairman, Conference 2011



Gill Steel, Deputy Chairman, Conference 2011

It's all systems go for the SIGBI Conference! This year, members from across the Federation will gather in one of England's most iconic cities: Brighton. With a heady mix of seaside, sites and shopping, not to mention eating, drinking and dancing, it's no wonder that everyone loves Brighton! The Conference is only three days and you won't want to leave, so why not stay longer?

The Programme

Thirty Girl Guides will parade the national flags during the Opening Ceremony on Thursday evening. And then, an innovative programme awaits you; the keynote speakers are confirmed as writer, broadcaster and comedian Sandi Toksvig, and Ann Cotton who founded the campaign for female education in Africa; CamFed. Chairman of the Conference Committee, Tracy Gardiner, says Brighton 2011 is on course for producing a number of "firsts": "Expressing our theme through dance, hustings for International President candidates and performances by the Certain Curtain Theatre Company are among them. There will be a choice of eight workshops running parallel with the main sessions. We're providing a challenging programme, to push forward the boundaries of our ambitions and fulfil the Conference theme: Inspiring Action, Transforming Lives.

"We aim to provide a professional and vibrant Conference, which not only meets the standard our members expect, but exceeds it. We want Soroptimists to leave Brighton clear about our purpose, bursting with fresh ideas for Programme Action in our clubs and with a clutch of new friendships."

Sponsorship

Keeping the costs down through sponsorship of the conference is being actively pursued. According to Federation President, Liz Morgan-Lewis, "We believe members will welcome this approach as long as there is a good match with

potential companies sharing our aims and values." Companies which share similar values and concerns are being targeted for what is hoped may become a long-term relationship.

"Ideally we're looking for a happy friendship rather than a short acquaintance" says Gill Steel, deputy chairman of the Conference Committee who is leading the search. "We are aware that some members will want assurances that partnerships don't compromise our integrity and of course that is upper-most in our minds." It can take several years for a successful partnership to bear fruit but some larger companies have regard for corporate social responsibility and others are looking to build commitment with their communities. "With the right partner, we think there could be mutual benefit in both raising our profile and who knows maybe even working together on some of our Programme Action campaigns" says Gill. A negotiating package is being developed; if you have any ideas for sponsors and know the right person to contact, please email: sibrighton2011@googlemail.com

Conference Clothing

White Polo shirts costing £10 can be ordered on the registration form. The theme "Inspiring Actions, Transforming Lives" is embroidered on the left shoulder and bust sizes range from 38 to 48 inches. There's a picture on the website registration page under Merchandise.

Registration

You may register online or with the form in this magazine. The full cost of registration is £133, but rises to £159 after 1st July – so book now. The form contains details of choices to make for the workshops, in parallel with the main sessions, most of which are on the Friday. If you're attending Conference for the first time, you will be invited to join President Liz and the FMB team for coffee on one of the mornings.

You'll also be distinguished by wearing a yellow lanyard, so that the rest of us can recognise you and make you feel welcome.

First time overseas members can apply to the Memorial Fund for help with travelling expenses and two nights accommodation. Four people will be selected. The application details can be found on the SIGBI site, Members section, under Membership. The closing date is 30th March. Also, if you need a Visa letter, apply NOW to Joanne Wagstaffe at Federation Office. Please indicate on the form if you need assistance because of disability and the specially designated steward will be in touch before the conference. When selecting workshops, please note that the Pavilion Theatre is only accessible by one full flight of stairs.

Transport

There will not be coaches from hotels to the Dome (the Conference venue) because the Brighton bus service is excellent and most hotels are in walking distance of the Dome. The routes and walking times are listed on the accommodation booking form. Be aware that car parking charges in the town are very expensive.

Parties

Finally, if you are planning your national or regional parties after the Gala Dinner, then it might be helpful to know that the venue, the Hilton Metropole, can accommodate you on a "guaranteed beverage throughout the meeting space" basis, says their Event Manager, Jon Allan. There's no cost for the hire of the room, which would be set out with cocktail tables and chairs. Pre-arranged drinks will be provided but no staff to serve.

The free room is based on a minimum order of £500.

Please contact jon.allan@hilton.com

There's more information at the conference website <http://www.sigbi-conference.co.uk/>

Brighton 2011

Inspiring action, transforming lives



Sandi Toksvig, Keynote Speaker, Conference 2011

Sandi Toksvig is a writer and broadcaster with a distinguished career in TV, theatre and in the media. She is happy to speak at a wide variety of special occasions – in fact, making people happy is one of the things she does best. In 2007 she was voted Broadcaster of the Year by the Broadcast Press Guild and Channel 4's Political Humorist of the Year.

After six years at Mamaroneck High School, New York, Sandi attained a First Class honours degree in Archaeology and Anthropology at Girton College, Cambridge. At Cambridge she was awarded the Theresa Montefiore Memorial Award for outstanding academic achievement. She appeared in a variety of Footlights shows and was the director, writer and performer of the first all-female Cambridge Revue.

Her theatre credits include a season with the Nottingham Playhouse, one with the New Shakespeare Company at Regents Park and The Pocket Dream which she also co-wrote at the Albery Theatre, London and the musical Big Night Out with songs by Dillie Keane. Sandi was one of the original members of the Comedy Store Players.

Television credits include No 73 (TVS), Behind the Headlines, The Big One with Mike McShane, Have I Got News for You?, Island Race with John McCarthy, Whose Line is it Anyway? and Call My Bluff.

She has written 18 books including Whistling for the Elephants, Flying under Bridges, The Gladys Society, The Travels of Lady Bulldog Drummond, Great Journeys and Island Race (co-written with John McCarthy).

Her children's books include Tell The Fuhrer it's Shakespeare and The Troublesome Tooth Fairy.

Eclectic and varied in style, but always with an original, fresh and individual approach, Sandi is well-known as the current chair of BBC Radio 4's The News Quiz. She also appears in 'I'm sorry, I haven't a clue' and is the presenter of the travel programme, Excess Baggage.

Sandi writes regularly for the Sunday Telegraph and readers of Good Housekeeping magazine look forward to her column which is called – rather aptly – 'The Last Word'.



Ann Cotton, Keynote Speaker, Conference 2011

Ann Cotton is Executive Director of CAMFED, the charity she founded to campaign for female education to give girls in Africa the skills and opportunities they need and deserve.

In 1991 Ann was in Zimbabwe researching for her MA, and studying why so few girls beyond age 12 went to school. Accepted by the Cambridge University to do her PhD, she faced a choice – to continue in academia or to apply her skills to international development? She chose the latter and at our Conference she will tell us why.

Was Ann influenced by her Welsh grandmother who was passionate about education, yet who left school aged twelve to care for her father, who was brain-damaged in a mining accident? Or her experience as a young mother of three children with the responsibility to provide secure and happy childhoods? Or the enduring memory of utter powerlessness in the face of the terminal illness of her baby daughter?

In 2008, she was awarded the Women of the Year 'Window to the World Award' which salutes women whose determination has brought attention to an international issue. Ann believes that vulnerability unites us all. CAMFED gives young women the power to inspire others who are facing the same problems they used to face. They offer us all the opportunity to work for a more just world – an opportunity we cannot ignore. Open and honest, optimistic, determined, Ann's story is an inspiration. Driven by social and entrepreneurial considerations, Ann Cotton is a remarkable woman.



Conference Workshops

Some of the finest practitioners in their fields are the guest speakers at eight workshops at Brighton 2011. This is in addition to main sessions at The Dome. "In fact the biggest problem delegates are likely to have is making their preferences as the conference programme offers so much choice" says Chief Steward, Ruth Healey.

The workshops range from Lynne Parker whose company "Funny Women" uses comedy techniques to coach people in their professional and private lives to "Stand Up to Stand Out" to Naomi Kent of Parliamentary Outreach who knows "How to get your voice heard by the right people in Westminster".

One of the Britain's most distinguished science educators, Professor Averil Macdonald will be alongside Nicola Grinstead, a trustee of Girlguiding UK for a session called "Together We Can".

Domestic Violence will be addressed in a performance of "The Lady in Red" by the Certain Curtain Theatre Company which was a big success at the UKPAC study day.

Workshops hosted by our own experts include SIGBI's Director of Communications, Jane Slatter talking about "Promoting the Soroptimist Brand," "Developing the Clubs of the Future" with the Directors of Membership & Organisational Development, Margaret Oldroyd and Denise Staplehurst and "Social Networking" with SI's Programme Director, Reilly Dempsey who is a human rights lawyer.

There is much more information on all the speakers in the Conference Section of the Conference website www.sigbi-conference.co.uk under "Workshops" and the full three day programme is in the same section under "Daily Schedule".



SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND (SIGBI) LIMITED
77th ANNUAL CONFERENCE – BRIGHTON 2011
REGISTRATION FORM
Registration closing date: 30 September 2011

27 OCTOBER – 29 OCTOBER 2011

Inspiring action,
Transforming lives.

PERSONAL DETAILS

Title

First Name

Surname

Address

.....

.....

Postcode

Tel No (Day) inc STD code

.....

Tel No (Evening)

.....

Tel No (Mobile)

.....

Email

.....

Fax

.....

Emergency Contact Name

.....

Emergency Contact Tel No:

.....

HOTEL OR PRIVATE ADDRESS during Conference

Please note this information will be included in the Delegate list

.....

Arrival Date

Airline: Flight No:

.....

Departure Date

NOTE: REGISTRATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER 30 SEPTEMBER 2011

LUNCHES are **not** included in delegate rates - local food outlets within easy walking distance of the Brighton Dome

<http://soroptimist-gbi.org>

Company Number 07058666

President: Liz Morgan-Lewis

SOROPTIMIST DETAILS

Club

Region/NA/Network/Country

Occupation

Membership No

Is this your first Federation Conference?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Are you (please tick where appropriate)

☐ Federation/International Officer

☐ Past Federation/International Officer

☐ Federation Consultative Council

☐ Federation Programme Action Chairman

☐ Region/NA/Network President
2010/2011

☐ Region/NA/Network President
2011/2012

Attending the General Meeting only?

Please remember you still have to complete the Registration Form in order to receive your Conference Pass.

FRIDAY 28 OCTOBER 2011 WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOP PREFERENCE Please state 1st, 2nd and 3rd preference. Please note places for the workshops are limited therefore allocation will be on a first come first served basis.

☐ **Workshop 1 – “Stand Up to Stand Out”**
Lynne Parker of Funny Women
9.00 am – 10.30 am – Founder’s Room

☐ **Workshop 2 – Panel Discussion
Together We Can.** Panel including
Nicola Grinstead & Averil MacDonald
9.00 am – 10.30 am – Pavilion Theatre

☐ **Workshop 3 – Membership & Development
“Developing the Clubs of the Future”**
Margaret Oldroyd & Denise Staplehurst
11 am – 12.30 pm – Founder’s Room

☐ **Workshop 4 – “Get your Voice Heard”**
Naomi Kent of Parliamentary Outreach
11 am – 12.30 pm – Pavilion Theatre

☐ **Workshop 5 – Communications
“Promoting the Soroptimist Brand”**
Jane Slatter
2 pm – 3.30 pm – Founder’s Room

☐ **Workshop 6 – Domestic Violence**
Curtain Theatre Company
2 pm – 3.30 pm – Pavilion Theatre

☐ **Workshop 7 – Social Networking**
Reilly Dempsey
4 pm – 5.30 pm Founder’s Room

☐ **Workshop 8 – Domestic Violence**
Curtain Theatre Company
4 pm – 5.30 pm – Pavilion Theatre

BRIGHTON CONFERENCE POLO SHIRT

White Polo Shirt, embroidered with *Inspiring Action, Transforming Lives*. Cost £10.00 per shirt. To order please enter the size required below and tick the relevant box on the last page of this form and include payment with your registration. Please note polo shirts ordered will be posted to your home address, if ordered by 31 August 2011. Polo shirts ordered after 31 August 2011 will be available for collection at Conference.

SIZE	PRICE PER SHIRT	QUANTITY
Small (up to 38 inch chest)	£10.00	
Medium (40 inch chest)	£10.00	
Large (42 – 44 inch chest)	£10.00	
Extra Large (46 inch chest)	£10.00	
Extra Extra Large (48 inch chest)	£10.00	

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO MEMBERS:

As agreed at the Federation Management Board meeting in January 2011, AACM Members are no-longer able to pay for their registration on arrival at Conference. This is due to the large number of non-attendance of members who book but do not pay until arrival.

All members wishing to attend Conference must submit their Registration Form along with their payment (sterling cheque/credit card/bank transfer), alternatively please complete the on-line Registration Form.

AACM Members - Please ensure that you apply for your visas as soon as possible. If you require a visa letter from Federation Office please contact Joanne Wagstaffe.

Registration fees will only be refunded if cancellations are received at Federation Office before 1 October 2011. A £15 handling charge will be deducted from the registration fee received.

ACCOMPANYING GUEST NOTE: Limited to one Guest per member. Guests must be 18 years old or over.

Title First Name Surname

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Soroptimist (Name):

Guest (Name):

If you or your guest requires assistance, please complete the details below, giving full details where necessary:

	YOU	GUEST
Wheelchair access	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Other assistance with mobility	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Please state:		
Visual impairment	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Hearing impairment	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Dietary	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Please state:		

Other requirements we should be aware of?

Please state:

Will you be accompanied by a carer and/or friend? ☐ Yes

Name of carer/friend

.....

MEMBERS REGISTRATION	EARLY BIRD Paid before 30 June 2011	LATE Paid before 30 September 2011
BRIGHTON CONFERENCE POLO SHIRT (please state size & quantity on page 2)	£10 per item £ _____	£10 per item £ _____
FULL REGISTRATION Including Gala Dinner (includes all day, workshops and evening events)	£178 <input type="checkbox"/>	£209 <input type="checkbox"/>
FULL REGISTRATION without Gala Dinner (as above, but not including Gala Dinner)	£133 <input type="checkbox"/>	£159 <input type="checkbox"/>
THURSDAY EVENING ONLY (Opening Ceremony)	£20 <input type="checkbox"/>	£25 <input type="checkbox"/>
FRIDAY DAY DELEGATE ONLY (does include workshops/Networking Event)	£95 <input type="checkbox"/>	£110 <input type="checkbox"/>
SATURDAY DAY DELEGATE ONLY (including AGM and Change of Insignia)	£45 <input type="checkbox"/>	£60 <input type="checkbox"/>
AGM ONLY (SATURDAY)	FREE <input type="checkbox"/>	FREE <input type="checkbox"/>
CHANGE OF INSIGNIA ONLY (SATURDAY AFTERNOON)	FREE <input type="checkbox"/>	FREE <input type="checkbox"/>
GALA DINNER ONLY (SATURDAY EVENING)	£45 <input type="checkbox"/>	£50 <input type="checkbox"/>
GUESTS REGISTRATION		
THURSDAY EVENING ONLY (Opening Ceremony)	£20 <input type="checkbox"/>	£25 <input type="checkbox"/>
FRIDAY DAY DELEGATE ONLY (does not include workshops)	£95 <input type="checkbox"/>	£110 <input type="checkbox"/>
SATURDAY DAY DELEGATE ONLY (including Change of Insignia) Note: Guests will not be allowed entrance to the GM	£45 <input type="checkbox"/>	£60 <input type="checkbox"/>
CHANGE OF INSIGNIA ONLY (SATURDAY AFTERNOON)	£15 <input type="checkbox"/>	£20 <input type="checkbox"/>
GALA DINNER ONLY (SATURDAY EVENING)	£45 <input type="checkbox"/>	£50 <input type="checkbox"/>
TOTAL FEE SUBMITTED		
<p>PAYMENT: This completed form, together with the fee payable, to be sent to: SIGBI Federation Office, 2nd Floor, Beckwith House, Wellington Road North, SK4 1AF, UK. Tel: 0161 480 7686, Fax 0161 477 6152, Email: hq@soroptimistgbi.prestel.co.uk</p> <p>Cheques and bank drafts (sterling only) to be made payable to SIGBI 2011 Brighton Conference. Credit /Debit card payments (a surcharge of 2.35% will be added to the fee payable)</p> <p>Master Card/VISA Number: <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></p> <p>Security Code (3 digit number found on the reverse of the card) <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></p> <p>Expiry Date Signature Date</p> <p>Registration fees will only be refunded if cancellations are received at Federation Office before 1 October 2011. A £15 handling charge will be deducted from the registration fee received. Queries regarding Conference Registration, please contact Joanne Wagstaffe at Federation Office Tel 0161 480 7686 Email: joanne.wagstaffe@soroptimistgbi.prestel.co.uk</p>		



UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon swears in Michelle Bachelet as Executive Director, UN Women

CSW 55

Making friends and influencing people

CSW55 THEME

Access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work.

Introduction by Hilary Ratcliffe, SIGBI Programme Director

New York again threw up its challenges; snow on the first morning and torrential rain on the last. However, registration this year was much easier. We were privileged to be there for the celebratory launch of UN Women. SIGBI Federation President, Liz, was able to sit in the General Assembly, others were in an overflow room

but we all were part of this historic event. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon welcomed the new entity in his charming and inimitable style, and we heard Michelle Bachelet, the new Executive Director of UN Women, speak with excitement about the new way forward.

The actress Nicole Kidman and the singer, Shakira sent goodwill

messages but the speaker who most impressed me was Ms Rakhi Sahi, the former commander of an all female police unit sent by the UN into Liberia to help keep the peace after the civil war that brought President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf into power.

The lasting impression taken away from CSW 55 was the number of young people there and involved in

the discussions. Our workshops were co-hosted by WAGGGS; a visible sign of our growing partnership. We presented a statement with them and the YWCA to the assembly.

In all the workshops we attended, the young men and women who were there were fully involved, articulate and active. They give us hope for the future!

Liz Morgan Lewis, SIGBI President: working with the Girl Guides at CSW

I was asked by International Programme Director Dawn-Marie to take part in one of the two workshops organised at CSW in partnership with WAGGGS (World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts).

Eight of us met with the eight members of the WAGGGS delegation in New York, at the Girl Scouts USA headquarters. We learned about each other's interests, work and ideas for advancing our causes.

We discussed social networking with the young(er) women and planned to extend our messages beyond CSW and out to the world, promising to regularly tweet and post updates on Facebook.

The next day, Sharon Fisher, SIA President, Reilly Dempsey, Programme Director, Dawn-Marie and I, with WAGGGS representatives: Pippa(UK), Katie (USA), Semia (Tunisia) and Maria Lauder (Costa Rica), presented the first of two workshops at CSW.

The focus of this workshop was formal and non-formal education for women and girls, with particular emphasis on the life course approach.

Maria Lauder spoke about WAGGGS in her community where they focus on learning with young girls. Katie, a 16 year old student, spoke about her experiences with the Girl Scouts.

She spoke on how she has developed interpersonal skills from being a member since she was in the 4th grade at school. Maria has also enjoyed an internship at her state capital through a project called 'Girls Rock the Capital'.

Sharon Fisher spoke on how education is a basic human right and how the benefits of learning reach beyond the educated women or girl; educated women are the

basis for stronger family structures and SIA's Women's Opportunity Award has helped women achieve their dreams for a better life.

Since its inception, US \$25million has been awarded to extraordinary women through this award.

I was given the task of addressing non formal education in the 'sixty plus' age group, so I highlighted three projects across the SIGBI Federation.

I spoke about the work of SI Surulere in Nigeria providing sewing machines and training widows to operate these so they can sell their goods on the market.

Since Nigerian widows often do

not have any inheritance rights, making a living can be very difficult and the project provides them with some financial independence through the provision of vocational skills.

I also described SI San Fernando's Home for the Elderly, 'Shangri La', in Trinidad; how they built it and now run it and the non-formal education the club provides on a regular basis for residents.

Finally I 'took' them to SI Perth in Scotland to speak about their Books Aloud, In this project the Club members give service to elderly local residents of care homes by reading books and running interactive workshops, which has demonstrated a positive impact, particularly on residents with dementia and other mental health issues.

The last Soroptimist presentation was on Moldova where education is used as a tool to prevent violence against women.

The Soroptimist Clubs in Moldova work in the orphanages to educate young women in key life skills and help to create a safe space for them so that they will not choose prostitution.



Soroptimists with the WAGGGS girls, L-R: Semia, Liz, Maria, Dawn-Marie, Pippa, Sharon, Reilly and Katie.



Judi Chaddock, Ann Dawson and Carwen Wynne Howells brave the New York snow to attend CSW55

Judi Chaddock, SIGBI APD, Human Rights & the Status of Women, reports on CSW55 discussions:

The Inter-parliamentary Union and UN Women organised a Parliamentary Event at CSW55. Michelle Bachelet, the new Executive Director, UN Women, gave the keynote address on “**The Role of Parliaments in promoting access and participation of women and girls to education, training, science and technology**”.

Girls' education, which is a prerequisite to access to science and technology, was considered by the first speaker, Ms G. Corat, Division of Gender Equality, UNESCO.

The Gender Divide, Non-discrimination – the right to education for all without exception, stereotypes in educational curricula and the type of education girls would benefit from, were all topics considered by Mr. Cavusoglu, from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and Ms N. Motsamai, Speaker of the National Assembly of Lesotho. An open discussion was held about attracting and retaining women and girls in science and technology education as well as addressing the gender-science stereotype.

Women's employment in science and technology was considered next by Ms J. Stewart, Director, International Labour Office (ILO) for the UN, New York.

She considered the challenges and gaps in moving from science studies to careers in science and then moved on to how to facilitate women's access to the science and technology labour market with an overview of existing initiatives.

An open discussion was held on addressing discrimination in the labour market and how to facilitate women's employment in the science and technology sectors.

This was followed by “How can ICT support women in politics?”

The speakers: Ms P. Kochar, Co-ordinator, iKnow Politics, Mr J Griffith, Senior Advisor, Global Centre for ICT in Parliament and Ms Mlugaric, Member of Parliament, Croatia, considered the benefits of ICT for women in politics with campaign messaging, knowledge sharing networking, ICT and parliaments.

The Review: The elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child.

This Theme was considered in session. The agreed conclusions of the 51st session of the CSW contained critical recommendations on the rights of girls, including poverty, education and training, gender stereotypes, health, HIV and AIDS, child labour, armed conflict, humanitarian assistance to girls, violence and discrimination, trafficking, girls in high-risk situations, migration, gender mainstreaming, data collection, and the empowerment and participation of girls.

As the Commission prepares to leave this theme in 2011, only a fraction of these recommendations have been taken up and implemented within state jurisdictions. The evidence on the ground reveals significant gaps between what is promised in the Agreed Conclusions and what is actually being delivered.

Although it appeared that a large amount of legislation had been developed and introduced, there are problems in the enactment/enforcement of legislation and delivery of various services such as support services, counselling and refugees.

Most of all changes are needed in cultural attitudes towards violence against the girl child; for example, in practices such as Female Genital Mutilation.

Ann Dawson reports on rethinking education

My first time at CSW and what an honour to be in the gallery of the General Assembly for the Opening and in the body of the Assembly for the launch of UN Women. and experience I will not forget, sheer emotional electricity throughout!

The one parallel session which really impacted on me was 'Rethink education for women and girls: beyond basic curricula'.

We heard from Dr Faraneh Vargha-Khadem, Director of the UCL Centre for Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience. She talked about how we learn, how the brain absorbs and stores information and the profound difference that damage to the brain can make to an individual's personality.

She discussed the difference between Implicit Knowledge (rules, habits, skills, actions) and Explicit Knowledge (facts, episodes) and reminded us that the purpose of life is to help advance human culture and society; a prerequisite for which is the development of ethical, moral and spiritual potential

Dr Changu Mannathoko, UNICEF Senior Policy Advisor - Education; came to New York from UNICEF regional Office of Eastern Africa in Nairobi, where she travelled the regions providing technical support in the areas of education, gender and development, sexuality

and HIV and AIDS in the education sector. Dr Mannathoko spoke life-skills education, a rights-based approach to programming/learning, violence in and around schools and early childhood development. In her current role she provides support and expertise to countries in the areas of equity and quality addressing issues, including gender equity, girls education and training, child friendly schools as pathways to quality education, safety and security in schools, HIV/AIDs prevention, capacity development and UN partnerships for girls' education.

Dr Wendi Momem is a Soroptimist and the Hon. Secretary of UN Women UK; founder of Baha'i Business Forum; Chair of Bedfordshire Board of Magistrates and much more. Wendi reminded us of our mothers as our first educators, 'The human being is like a mine, full of gems which need to be brought to the surface and polished to reach their full potential, no one is unteachable, all can have aspirations beyond their basic needs'. Wendi looked at moral values, not being judgemental, being brought up to build a better world. She raised questions - what do we want to see? What are we hoping for as we move beyond the core curricula? What institutional things can be done? What can we do?

Carwen Wynne Howells reports on Working with the UK Mission

Have you watched transmissions from the UN and seen officials, seated behind their country's name plate, responding on behalf of that member state? Have you wondered how the system works? Attending CSW gives the opportunity to gain at insight into the process and even, on occasion, influence it.

Each Member State has a Mission; a unit where their Ambassador and the team of Officials work. It is the members of this team that you see on television. During CSW, Soroptimists have the opportunity to work, together with representatives of other NGOs, with their Missions.

UK Members are fortunate; the UK Mission is on the 28th Floor of No 885 on Second Avenue - the views over New York are stunning, particularly in the evening. The Ambassador generously held a reception for UK delegates, introducing us to the Mission.

Briefings are held each morning during CSW and on most evenings.

Anyone attending CSW from the UK may attend briefings and it is a really good way of getting to know representatives of the other NGOs.

Morning briefings focused on the events on the day and emerging issues but included discussion of the Resolutions that were being formulated. This year the Resolutions on 'Access to Education' and on 'Climate Change' were being developed and we were given the opportunity to study the wording and suggest possible additions and amendments – yes, we really had the chance to influence what went into the documents.

Evening briefings were more specific and it was so good to be able to be there for the briefing on 'UN Women' the evening before the new unit was officially launched on 24 February. After several years of negotiation it was finally happening and there was a tremendous buzz; The launch of the unit was a truly historic event and we were there.

Attendance at the briefings provides an insight into the complex machinery that comprises the UN and to network with the other NGOs.

My thanks to the Ambassador and his team for making us so welcome at the UK Mission.



SIGBI News

Your Legacy to Charity

Perhaps you have already decided how to detail your wishes in your will and confirmed these with a solicitor.

Leaving a gift to charity in your will is an amazing way for your generosity to last beyond your own lifetime and Soroptimists have already left generous gifts to Soroptimist charities to enable them to continue.

I thought, however, that it might be helpful to outline the optimal way of doing this. Put simply, a legacy is a gift left to a charity in a will. A will is a legal document which needs to be signed in the presence of two witnesses and ideally the will should be drawn up by a solicitor. If you have already made your will, and now wish to leave a legacy to charity, this can be added to your will by way of a codicil, again drawn up by a solicitor.

So that the charity of your choice is properly identified in the will, it is advised that you state the charity's name, address (registered office address) and the charity registration number.

SIGBI Ltd currently operates three registered charities:

The Diamond Education Grant

Registered charity no: 1139668 (for the provision of educational grants to women)

The Emergency Relief Fund

Registered charity no: 211231 (for the relief of suffering caused by disasters)

The Benevolent Fund

Registered charity no: 211840 (for the relief of women in the UK and Ireland who are or who have been Soroptimists)



As part of your legacy you can make an expression of wish – that is you can request that this legacy is used for a particular purpose, for example for work in a specific country, and we have a moral obligation to try and comply if we are able to do so. You can always ask your solicitor to contact SIGBI head office for further information, if that is helpful.

I should also advise that up till now legacies have also been left to the Soroptimist Residential Club, which operates as a limited company under an original Friendly Society registration

Shares

Whilst writing about legacies, perhaps I should also touch on shares. General shares that you hold can be left as part of your estate, and again you can designate whether you wish the shares to be left to a particular charity.

However, shares that Soroptimists hold in the Soroptimist Residential Club (no. 63) should be treated differently. These shares can only be left in your will to another Soroptimist, your Soroptimist Club or returned to the Soroptimist Residential Club. The Residential Club Share Registrar will be pleased to note your preference on her records.

If you would like more information on any of the above, please contact Jenny Vince, SIGBI Director of Finance: jvincesi@googlemail.com

Your website: your shop window!

Does your Club (or Region or National Association) have a website?

- **Are your events on your website?**
- **Is your website content up-to-date, lively and interesting to non-Soroptimists?**
- **Is your website address on your publicity materials?**

If the answer to any of these questions is "No" then people who use the internet to find out information will simply assume that you don't do anything interesting. This means you're missing out because these people could be prospective members, potential speakers, a newspaper or magazine thinking of writing something about your Club and the wonderful things you do...

To see examples of SIGBI Club websites go to the SIGBI website: www.soroptimist-gbi.org click on the "Our Clubs" tabs - any of the Clubs, Regions or National Associations underlined have live websites.

We are planning to launch the new improved SIGBI website in July or August of this year – this will include all of the Club, Region and National Association websites using the SIGBI website system. Make sure your website content is up-to-date now, so that it really looks attractive when it is migrated across to the new system.

Contact Sally Higgins at HQ if you want to know more about setting up a SIGBI Website, or need help with updating your SIGBI Website sally@sigbi.org If you have any queries please let Sally or me know.

Jane Slatter, Director of Communications pinkyslatter@hotmail.com

IN THE MAIL

14/1/11 Club/Region/NA/Network Mailing

- 1) SIGBI Retailing: Order Form updated 4/1/11
- 2) Friendship Link Newsletter January 2011
- 21/1/11 Club/Region/NA/Network Mailing

1. SIGBI Time of Reflection Guidelines 1/2011
2. Liz Morgan-Lewis – Letter to Clubs – Recruitment Guidelines 20/1/2011
3. SIGBI Recruitment Guidelines January 2011
4. Capitation Fees and Membership Forms 2011
5. Reduced Retailing Items Flyer 17/1/2011
6. Order Form and Price List - 17/1/2011
7. Jackie Mosedale – Letter to Clubs – 75 for 75 – 20/1/2011

28/1/11 – Club/Region/NA/Network Mailing

1. Membership Newsletter 1/2011 Final Version
2. Flyer – Diary 2012 January 2011
3. SIGBI Programme Voting Delegates
- 4/2/11 – Club/Region/NA/Network Mailing
- 1) A SIGBI PowerPoint Template

2) Two template Press Releases for International Women's Day

11/2/11 – Club/Region/NA/Network Mailing

- 1) Letter from President, Liz Morgan-Lewis
- 2) Fed. President's Travel Schedule 2012- 17
- 11/2/11 – Regions Only

1) Letter from SIGBI Director of Organisational Development, Margaret Oldroyd

- 2) UKPAC PowerPoint, Violence Against Women

3) Letter from SIGBI Director of Organisational Development, Margaret Oldroyd

11/2/11 – NA/Network only

1) Letter from SIGBI Director of Organisational Development, Margaret Oldroyd

18/2/11 – Club/Region/NA/Network Mailing

- 1) Reminder about International Women's Day from Jackie Paling, APD Human Rights/Status of Women
- 2) Brighton Conference Newsletter no 2 from

the Brighton Conference Committee

25/2/11 - Club/Region/NA/Network Mailing

- 1) Reminder about International Women's Day – Soroptimist events taking place

2) UKPAC Levy

3) Human Trafficking Symposium – SPAM EMAIL ALERT

4) Soroptimist International – Global Voice Newsletter

9/3/11 – Clubs

- 1) Region/NA/Network Role Specifications – Club Ballot and accompanying documentation

2) Federation Leadership Development Sub Committee and Federation Leadership Development Sub Committee Member - Club

Ballot and accompanying documentation

11/3/11 – Clubs/Regions/NA/Network

- 1) New Members Pack
- 2) Note to Clubs re Membership Pack
- 3) Reminder about International Women's Day

Membership Matters

I hope that you have received the latest issue of the Membership Newsletter with lots of ideas about what is happening in SIGBI - sharing your good practice and offering support when needed.

I am always so delighted to receive emails from Clubs saying they have increased their membership and that it is so positive for the Club; that it has changed the dynamics, focusing once again on Programme Action for women and girls.

To help new members the New Membership Pack is online. This is a resource for them to visit in the members section of the website and find out all they need to know.

On the first weekend of March, the Regional Presidents of Ann Dawson's Federation Presidential Year met for its annual reunion at the Soroptimist Club in London.

We talked about the benefits of being a Soroptimist and were so pleased to find so many. We all value our membership and we felt that it is these benefits that we need to communicate to prospective members. You may have more – why not contact me and we will add to the list in the newsletter?

We already have a leaflet 'Why Join Soroptimist International?' which lists the benefits of membership. This is a good tool to use with prospective members (available to purchase in packs of 50 for £3 from Federation Office.)

SIGBI Advantages:

1. Global network of friends and Clubs; travel opportunities and contacts throughout the world. Opportunities to meet up at National Association, Network, Region and Federation meetings, conferences and conventions to share ideas.

2. Opportunities to make a difference; a global voice for women; national/ international coverage that other women's organisations may not have; a large group of members; Advocacy.

3. Opportunities to meet a diverse group of women from different professions ages and cultures; good focused conversation; willingness to share knowledge and help and support others; developing Awareness on whole breadth of issues through Programme Focus.

4. Pastoral care – cards, visits, friendship – just because we are Soroptimist sisters.

5. International magazine to share ideas, gain expertise and use as a recruitment tool; opportunities to gain recognition and see benefits of project work – taking Action.

6. International website, database and resources to assist with projects. An opportunity to bring workplace and leadership skills to the organisation and to learn new skills for career development. An increase in self esteem and confidence. Gaining knowledge and developing expertise.

7. Opportunities for friendship, support and enjoyment; opportunities to talk about our organisation and what we have achieved.



There will be another SIGBI Membership newsletter in April with more ideas.

The membership and organisational development sections of the website have been merged so that you can find everything about starting and running new Clubs in one place.

You will find examples of good practice, guidelines, presentations and templates and lots of other useful material. If you have examples of ideas which have worked for you, please let me have them, or, if you cannot find what you want, please contact Federation Office or me.

Lastly, a set of Easy Stages Guides to running Clubs and starting new ones is nearing completion. The idea of these guides is to make life as easy as possible to support succession planning and ease the problems which some Clubs face in getting Officers.

It is hoped that these will be available on the SIGBI website in late April. They cover topics such as: the Role of the Club Executive, Managing Meetings, Content of Meetings, Setting the Club Budget, Mentoring New Members and much more.

Denise Staplehurst
Federation Director of Membership
email: denisest@tiscali.co.uk



Girlguiding UK!
SIGBI is working hard building links with the Girl Guides, Denise King, CEO, sends this message:

Celebrating Girlguiding UK's centenary last year provided hundreds of thousands of members with a fantastic array of opportunities for new experiences and a lifetimes worth of exciting memories. Some of adventures these went as planned and some led to the unexpected, such as being stranded in various parts of the world due to earthquakes or volcanic ash! 'I was there...' became an oft-repeated phrase when sharing a story of fun filled adventure that characterised all our celebrations.

We have collected almost a thousand stories from across the generations describing current and former members' experiences of what they have gained from their involvement in guiding over the last 100 years. This fantastic archive marks a substantial chapter in social history for women in the 20th century and we intend to continue building on this over the years to come. Our heritage mirrors in many ways the longstanding experience of the Soroptimist Clubs and we are pleased to take this opportunity to

explore locally how we might work together.

The purpose of guiding is still to enable every girl and young woman to fulfil her potential and become an active citizen. With more than half a million members we are confident that these girls and young women will make a difference to

the world. Indeed in 2009 we worked with 18 national and international charities ranging from WWF to Help the Hospices to raise awareness or funds or to take practical action. You may even have been to a Save the Children charity shop that had been adopted by Rainbows or Brownies for the day! In total we raised more than £1million across all these projects but almost more valuable are the enduring connections and local links that were made. This renewal of our longstanding commitment to community service was an important part of cherishing our unique organisational heritage as part of our celebrations.

There are 156 Counties within the nine Countries and Regions that make up Girlguiding UK and our dynamic girl-led programme provides engaging activities for girls and young women aged 5 to 25 divided across four sections: Rainbows 5 to 7, Brownies 7 to 10, Guides 10 to 15 and Senior section 14 to 25.

Guiding remains in great demand across the country; we have over 40,000 girls waiting to join

and we are constantly looking for support from other community based organisations to help identify teams of adult volunteer leaders, places to meet and ways of fundraising to help new units get started. We realise that not everyone wants to be a unit leader and so we offer a range of flexible ways to get involved like helping locally to market guiding within communities, assisting with administration and finances for a unit or group of units and especially support with planning the introduction of guiding into new neighbourhoods. Our website gives lots more information on how you could get involved: <http://www.girlguiding.org.uk>.

In 2011 we are celebrating our worldwide connections and are proud to be hosting the 34th World Conference for Girl Guides and Girl Scouts in Edinburgh in July. This international dimension is also a shared feature with Soroptimists and we look forward to welcoming guiding leaders from many of the 145 member countries from across the globe. Many units are busy with our educational resource - World Guiding Goes Tartan! – and through this focus on international issues there may be opportunities for guiding groups to link in with Soroptimists in their local area to collaborate on local projects for mutual benefit.

There is general encouragement to explore local links between guiding and Soroptimists where possible, although as everyone is a volunteer we all need to take care with setting realistic expectations of one another. We look forward to hearing about the outcomes of local conversations!



Girlguiding UK
girls in the lead

Hold a Blooming Great Tea Party

Put the kettle on, invite some friends and have fun.

June to July, 2011

Get your free fundraising pack now, call **08700 340 040** or visit **www.mariecurie.org.uk/teaparty**



Marie Curie
Cancer Care



FRSB
give with confidence

Charity reg no. 207994
(England & Wales),
SC038731 (Scotland) P187

Hold a Blooming Great Tea Party for Marie Curie



Every year thousands of people put the kettle on and hold Blooming Great Tea Parties to raise money for Marie Curie Cancer Care. It's a great way to be sociable and have fun while helping a very good cause.

It can be as simple as having a few friends round for a cuppa and a slice of cake to a larger do in the garden, a tea party at work or even a bigger community event.

There are lots of ways to raise money at your party, here are some ideas to inspire you...

- If you're hosting a tea party at work, offer to do the tea run, hold a bake sale, and don't forget to display a donation box.
- Bring back some traditional party games or play guess the weight of the cake or how many sweets in the jar.
- Ask local shops, businesses or friends if they have prizes to donate to a raffle for your party.
- Hold a baking competition, ask bakers to make a donation for taking part and tasters to make a donation for sampling the treats.

Or perhaps you could have a themed party...



"We had our party early to take advantage of the lovely weather! We had a fantastic response! We held it in my back garden and had lots of fun doing the tea quiz! Thank you for suggesting this, it was so easy to arrange, thanks to your party pack and we all had a lot of fun on the day". Beverley Wilson, Devon

The money raised at each tea party will help to provide free nursing care and support to terminally ill people in your neighbourhood. Each £20 raised will pay for one hour of Marie Curie nursing care in a patient's home so every tea party, however big or small, will make a difference.

We've put together a free pack containing lots of things to help you organise your party along with some fundraising ideas and themes to inspire and help you raise money.

To get your free fundraising pack full of ideas and goodies to decorate your party - Call 08700 340 040

Or visit www.mariecurie.org.uk/teaparty

Club news



SI Dublin President Marie-Therese Lacy, with Club members, hosted a coffee morning in aid of SIGBI's National project Cystic Fibrosis. A tremendous € 1,742 was raised for the 'Buy a Brick Campaign, to help fund their national building programme.



SI Cambridge President Jenny Grech, presented a bouquet of flowers to member Betty Barr who recently celebrated 50 years of membership! She can be seen in the photo, from the Club archive, at her inauguration as Club President in 1965. Betty was made an Honorary member in 1988 and continues to attend meetings.



SI Carmarthen held its annual charity luncheon, attended by Soroptimists from across South Wales including Regional President Carys. President Phyllis hosted the event, with Fiona Rogers as MC. Judy Polkinhorn, Executive Director for Mercy Ships UK was the guest speaker; Mercy Ships is an international charity using hospital ships partnering with land based programmes to transform the lives of some of the world's poorest people, by providing health care at no cost. The ships are staffed by volunteers who have performed 47,000 life-changing operations, such as cleft lip and palate repair, cataract removal, orthopaedic procedures, facial reconstruction and obstetric fistula repair. The raffle raised £500 for the charity.

SI Amber Valley has the theme: 'How Green is My Valley?' and this was addressed at the February meeting by Theresa Barnes, Principal Waste Performance Officer for Amber Valley, and Stephen Tomlinson, Assistant Waste Management Development Officer for Derbyshire County Council. Members were brought up to date with current strategies for dealing with domestic and trade waste and with future intentions. Amber Valley Council works in partnership with Veolia Environmental Services towards encouraging more recycling.



SI Bilston supports Jericho House, a Wolverhampton Refuge for women and children affected by domestic violence. Waitrose (UK) runs a scheme called 'Community Matters' in which three charities per month are nominated for support. Shoppers place a green token in one of the three boxes in the store. Every month £1000 is shared proportionately between the three charities according to the number of tokens given by customers. Bilston nominated Jericho House in December and it became a clear winner. Bilston President Joan and members met Waitrose staff and the Manager of Jericho House to receive a cheque for £600.



SI Cannock raised £350 at a coffee morning. 40 people gathered to raise funds for Edward's Trust, a charity offering support to anyone affected by the death of a child. Jeremy Walker, Director of Edward's Trust, joined them for the morning. Edward's Trust offers support with an holistic approach to respond to the emotional and physical needs of each family member.



SI Ashton under Lyne's June Riley presented Peter Edwards of the Royal British Legion with a cheque for £1000 raised from the sale of knitted poppies. The poppies were so popular at the SIGBI conference that many other Clubs throughout the country became involved.



SI Bournemouth member Jean Harvey celebrated 40 years as a Soroptimist. She joined in 1973 following three years as a member of SI Grimsby & Cleethorpes. She has twice been President; 1979-80 and 1998-99 and has been Club Treasurer. Jean has always been actively involved with Programme Action and is a Trustee and General Manager of Cementing Futures.



SI Cardiff has inducted five new members since April 2010. Marcella Price was inducted in December, prior to the Club's Christmas dinner which was followed by a Casino night when members dressed as gangsters or molls. £72 was raised for the International President's Appeal.



SI Bangor and SI Newtownards mother and daughter Clubs united to fund a research project with Diabetes UK's scheme where you adopt an approved research project by contributing £1000. Presidents Iris Gawn and Gladys Bond agreed that a joint project would benefit both Clubs. Fundraising was shared, Soroptimism reached a wider audience and friendship strengthened between the Clubs. The chosen project will be carried out at King's College, London, looking at the creation of insulin producing islet cells to help the development of new treatments for Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes.



SI Brixham took over an empty shop for two weeks before Christmas and raised £2,500 for five local charities. Four of them joined SI Brixham in March and collected their £500 cheques. The delighted charities were: Admiral Swimming Pool, Homestart Torbay, Youth Enquiry Service and the Royal British Legion.



SI Barry was impressed by a talk by a representative of Mary's Meals, a charity which provides a meal a day in a school in communities where poverty and hunger handicap children in gaining an education. However, children face many other obstacles and parents struggle to provide school bags, pencils and notebooks etc. The complementary Backpack Project, invites people to donate these items packed into a school bag, so members decided to help. They quickly collected enough items to fill 40 backpacks. www.marysmeals.org



SI Cirencester member Jackie Gloyd used Soroptimist contacts to help a children's home in South Africa. An email came from Rita Allen through SIGBI asking if any Soroptimist knew of a charity which could use some spare boxes of nasal gastric tubes and other medical equipment for children. Jackie had just used a friend in South Africa to renew a former contact with the SI Cape of Good Hope, so she asked them. A member was helping to update the bathrooms at St. Joseph's, Capetown, a home for children with long-term medical problems, and they would be grateful for the equipment. Through a series of members' contacts Alan Edwards, of Corin Ltd., took on the paperwork and expense of transporting the nine boxes to Cape Town.



SI Dunfermline held its International Lunch, raising £220 for LemonAID. The speaker was Dr. Alison Dunn, a local GP who is a Medical Aid worker with the charity which gives practical assistance to a very poor community on the Haitian island of La Gonave. The team were in Haiti before the devastating earthquake and Alison said LemonAID is hoping to rebuild the wrecked hospital but basic GP treatment is vital and the team administers treatments as a priority.



At **SI Ellesmere Port's** recent social evening a ten year old Alex Stead a very talented violinist gave a superb recital of classical music. Alex has already reached Grade 7 and passed all grades with Distinction. He has been playing violin since the age of four and now travels to Manchester for lessons. They also welcomed Sophie Lasek, a guider whom the Club had sponsored on her visit to Tanzania with the GOLD guiding team.



SI Falkirk raised funds and bought saplings, which with the aid of local Scouts, were planted along the canal by the Falkirk Wheel. SI Falkirk has agreed to keep this stretch of land tidy and free of litter. The formal agreement between SI Falkirk and British Waterways Falkirk Wheel Management was signed in the foyer of the Falkirk Wheel reception area to mark the occasion. President Kareen Cairns, Programme Officer Karen Walls and other members are pictured.

SI Fishguard's speaker at its last meeting was Rhianna Chilton, the joint recipient of the biennial Pam Lewis award, given in memory of a founder member of the Club.

Rhianna is an officer in the Sea Cadets and had experience sailing small dinghies. Her ambition is to join the Royal Navy as a junior officer, so she applied to the Tall Ships Youth Fund to sail with them to gain experience of a much larger vessel. The young people met the boat and its crew in Las Palmas on Gran Canaria for a 7 day stay. After a wonderful experience Rhianna returned to tell members of her experiences.



SI Gosport and Fareham sent £1000 towards the delivery of LifeStraws to Pakistan, via the Rotary Club of Brynmawr, South Wales. They received £300 of this from SI Elmbridge and SI Woking.

Guest speaker David Dutton, President of Brynmawr Rotary, said that he had raised funds for six years to buy and deliver the LifeStraw, a purification device that turns contaminated water into safe drinking water. "The funds that people like the Soroptimists give mean we can save lives," he said. "Remember you're not buying a straw, you're buying a life."

SI Grange-over-Sands joined the Morecambe Bay Landscape Partnership to carry out a beach clean. Members were amazed at the amount of rubbish they found around Humphrey Head. Sue Fleetwood, facilitator for the Environment, and other members cleared the beach of rubbish ... and rugs and assorted odd items!



SI Malta nominated Rita Vella Borg for the Women Inspiring Europe Calendar 2011. This competition was organised by the European Institute of Gender Equality. The aim is to give visibility to some of Europe's outstanding women serving as inspiration. Rita has Muscular Dystrophy, is married to Kevin, who also uses a wheelchair, and was chosen from 100 nominations from all over Europe. Rita's profile has now reached beyond Malta, with her photo gracing 'October'.



SI Greenock coined in the cash at their recent fund raising coffee morning. With the Largs and District Traditional Music Society playing Scottish music in the background, the tills of the tombola, raffle and home baking stalls rang to the tune of over £700 to be given to local charities.



SI Haverfordwest brought together well-qualified speakers to raise the awareness of trafficked women in January. A forum held at the Withybush Conference Centre saw MP Stephen Crabb, Joyce Watson AM, Pembroke Port Manager Mike Ashworth, Dyfed Powys Police Port Unit Officer Barry Bowen, and Dr Anne Kelly of SI Tenby present the facts on a crime which occurs more often than people think. Following a case last year where two people in Castlemartin were alleged to be involved

with human trafficking, Tenby Soroptimists began a campaign to highlight the issues, working with schools and other organisations. SI Haverfordwest is backing the SI Purple Teardrop Campaign which aims to stop trafficking.



SI Ilkley's Pat Booth was proud to attend the opening of the Challenge Wall at the Breakthrough Breast Cancer Research Centre in London. The newly dedicated glass wall has the names inscribed of Soroptimists Alison Allen and Lynn Dunning, as a direct result of collections on the Grove in Ilkley, over the past three years.

For each £1000 collected, a name can be inscribed on the Wall.

The emotional visit completed the circle of activity; from planning a local fundraising initiative, following Alison's death, collecting, achieving the target and seeing the work that the fundraising is able to contribute to research, to combat Breast Cancer". Pat was accompanied by Elizabeth Hughes and Brian Dunning.



Club news



SI Pune Metro East had a three day celebration to mark its first charter anniversary in January. They organised a workshop at Ishwari, Phulgaon, a small village, where 22 girls were taught practical life skills. The workshop, fourth one under the women empowerment project, 'Girls Moving Forward', was conducted by members of SI Pune, SI York Ebor, SI Perth, SI Bangalore and SI Chennai).

On 30th January the members gathered for a pot-luck lunch. A presentation, 'Women Weave Wonders', where the members displayed saris and weaves of India, left the viewers spellbound. The next day brought a formal presentation of the year long activities and achievements of the Club since its charter in 2010. Club President Nisha Ghosh, welcomed overseas guests and the partners who support their work.

SI Newtownabbey held a fashion show in aid of Project Sierra and Chest Heart Stroke Northern Ireland. The models were all volunteers. Club Secretary Ann Adams, the Secretary of CHS, Ann's three nieces, various grandsons and other children modelled Halloween outfits and casual day wear. The children stole the show and their verdict was that they would like to do it again. At their Club meeting in February, cheques were presented by President Margaret for £1,300 to each of the two charities.



SI Plymouth presented £4,066 to Judy Pride of Children's Hospice South West Precious Lives Appeal. The money was raised by a "Celebration of Youth Music" concert jointly organised for the second year by SI Plymouth and the Rotary Club of Plympton, and from the "wishing tree" held in the House of Fraser before the concert.



SI Skipton in Craven held a used book sale to raise money for President Samantha Lawson's Charity; a Talking

Book for the Blind. The RNIB provided posters and price stickers and the event was well publicised. The event was a great success, raising £243, which brought the total raised for the RNIB this year to £1132; sufficient to buy a talking book. Members look forward to choosing a title, which will be dedicated to the Club.



SI St Vincent & The Grenadines' first activity for 2011 was a radio programme aired on National Broadcasting Corporation in January. This was in the form of a Panel discussion and Call In programme on Views on Issues, organised by Programme Action Chairman SISVG, Nelia Primus under the Theme "VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN". The panel comprised Soroptimists Rene Baptiste, CMG and former Government Minister and Joyce Haynes who is also a member of the National Committee on Crime Prevention, Nelia Robinson-Hazell, President of the National Council of Women and ASP Jonathan Nichols with Juanita Francois of NBC hosting the programme.



SI Tamworth is collecting unwanted bikes for a UK based Christian Charity - The Krizevac Project which helps people in the poorest of countries. The old bikes will be collected by volunteers and shipped to Malawi where they will be repaired and sold to raise income to support other non profit making activities within the Krizevac Project. The Mayor of Tamworth launched the appeal in January.

SI Widnes members have been writing cards in connection with the Amnesty International Greetings Card campaign. Amnesty International says: "Our Greetings Card Campaign brings people across the world in touch with each other in a simple way - by sending a card with a friendly greeting or message of solidarity to someone who is in danger or unjustly imprisoned." SI Widnes met and talked about the problems faced by those to whom we were writing and wrote simple, non-political messages of friendship, before sharing supper together.



SI Wigan's Immediate Past Joint President Kate Fussell presented a cheque for £800 to David Steele, Community Fundraising Manager, SENSE. Sense is the leading national charity that supports and campaigns for children and adults who are deafblind. David gave a short presentation and described the difficulties that carers face when looking after a person who has deaf-blindness and that SENSE is there to support them and provide advice. L-R: Elaine Tyrrell Treasurer, President Carole Britner, Kate Fussell, David Steele, SENSE and Indu Gupta, Club Secretary.

SI Wolverhampton recently welcomed two guests, Stephen Russell of Wolverhampton Outreach spoke about the work that he and other volunteers do in facilitating meetings between parents and children who, by separation or divorce, are no longer together permanently. Stephen said that it was very rewarding seeing the benefits gained, and appealed for volunteers. The Club's other guest was Pat Cross, Midland Chase Region President. Pat, an ex-headmistress, entertained her audience with tales of her years as a

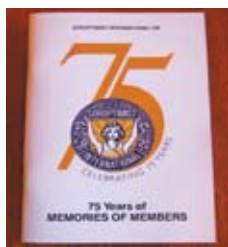


teacher. She explained her theme for her Presidential Year - 'Learn from Yesterday - Live for Today - Hope for Tomorrow' and hoped that the the Region would pledge to do just this, and to "make a difference".

Club News is your chance to tell members what you have been doing to make a difference! Help us by following these guidelines: Put your Club name and the topic in the subject box of the email, attach a picture as a separate JPEG and write the text either in the email or in a 'Word' file. Email to soroptimist@written-image.com.



SIGBI shopping



75 Years of Memories of Members Book,
Was £2.00, Now £0.75.



75th Fridge Magnet –
Price was £1.00.
Now £0.43



Diamond shaped paperweight with 75th logo & certificate in presentation box. Was £28.00 now £12.00



Teddy Bear 26cm jointed bear, with 75th logo and website.
Was £7.50 now £3.07



A4 Letterhead
250 sheets per pack.
£12.25



A4 Ringbinder
White with Blue/Yellow logo
Was £3.83, now £1.92



Fridge Magnet with SIGBI logo and website address.
Was £1.20 now £1.02



SIGBI leaflets "Why Should I Join?"
Pack of 50: £3.00



DPI/NGO Leaflets
Price per leaflet
£0.15



Membership Certificates
5 certificates per pack
£2.56



Membership Cards
10 cards per pack
£1.22



Car Sticker with SIGBI logo and web address.
Was £1.25 now £1.02



Engraved globe silver paper knife.
Was £7.50 now £7.20



Promotional Stickers 30 per A4 sheet of 5 designs.
Was £1.40 now £1.22



Stick on Emblems (40 stickers per sheet).
£0.61



15 Blue Napkins or Yellow Napkins with gold emblem £2.04



6 Fun Coasters (1 logo design and 5 designs as fun notelet. Were £5.50 now £5.10



SI Logo Memory Stick (2gb) with website address. Was £7.05, now £5.88



Past President Badge
£5.98



Name Bar
£3.58



3/4" Badge available as a clasp fitting or magnetic £3.26



1/2" Badge available as clasp fitting or magnetic £3.26

Ordering All items exclusive of postage and packing. Contact: Joanne Wagstaffe, Sales Officer, Soroptimist International Great Britain and Ireland (SIGBI) Ltd., 2nd Floor, Beckwith House, Wellington Road North, Stockport, SK4 1AF. Tel: 0161 480 7686 Fax: 0161 477 6152 Email: hq@soroptimistgbi.prestel.co.uk

Do not send any money with your order. An invoice plus postage and packing will be sent with your order. All goods are sent by the most economical postage and cost is dependent on the weight. To pay by credit card, please provide Card Number, Expiry Date and Security Code (3 digit number found on reverse of card) with your order. Please allow 7 – 10 days for your order to be processed.



in memoriam

Jean Haslett, SI Bangor, Northern Ireland, died on 7 December 2010 aged 84. Jean was an Honorary Member, Past President and Past Regional Secretary. She was Chairman of the Benevolent Fund and an enthusiastic PR for the North/South Public Speaking competition.

Marion Taylor, SI Bangor, Northern Ireland, died on 21 December 2010 aged 86. Marion was a dedicated Member for over 30 years.

Doreen McCullough OBE, SI Bangor, Northern Ireland, died 22 December 2010 aged 90. A distinguished Soroptimist, Doreen was Chief Nursing Officer for Northern Ireland

Dame Olga Christine Lopes-Seale, DA, MBE, SI Barbados, died on 15 February 15, 2011. Olga joined the Club during the 60s and was made an Honorary Member.

The Reverend Doctor Unez Smuts, SI Johannesburg, has died aged 90. She was an Honorary Member and served as President 1976-1978. After studying in the United Kingdom, she returned to South Africa where she was the first female minister in the country.

Ruth Hodgson, SI Taunton, died on 14 February 2011 aged 85. Ruth was headmistress of an independent school. She became a

Soroptimist in 1974, served on various committees in the Club and was Minute Secretary and maintained the Club attendance records.

Evelyn McKenzie, SI Glasgow South, died on 16 December 2010. An Honorary Life Member of the Club, Evelyn had been a Member since 1971 and served as President 1974-5.

Pamela Walker, SI Dolgellau & District died on 8 January 2011 aged 76. Pam joined SI in 1989, was President in 1993-94 and Club Secretary 1994-2000 and 2004-2010.

Kathleen Hayward, MBE, SI The Fylde, died on 12 February 2011 aged 91. A dedicated Soroptimist for 48 years, she served twice as President; 1972-73 and 1997-98 and was an Honorary Member.

Kathleen Balch, SI Eastbourne & District (transferred from SI Wolverhampton in 1973), died on 17 February 2011, aged 99. A dedicated Soroptimist for 46 years, she was made an Honorary Member of the Eastbourne Club.

Judith Quash, SI Hallamshire (Sheffield) died on 7 January 2011 aged 76. A Soroptimist since 1981 Judith was Club President 1985-86, twice Regional Representative and held various convenor roles.

June Atkinson, SI Beverley & District, Honorary Member, died 5 December 2010 aged 95, a Founder Member of the Club in 1966.

Dorothy Playford, SI Maidstone, died on 3 October 2010, aged 80. Dorothy was a teacher and Guide Commissioner. She had been a Club President three times.

Hazel Bishop, SI Ashford, died on 2 February. Hazel joined the Club in 1990 and served as President from 1996-1997. She was most recently Regional Development Officer in the South East Region but had held a number of positions.

Mary Andrew, SI Paisley, died aged 94 a member for 48 years.

Marjorie Lawley, SI Crosby, died 29 January 2011, aged 86, a Soroptimist for 52 years. An Honorary Member, Marjorie was President 1967 to 1968.

Sheila Allen, SI Crosby, died 3 October 2010 aged 96. Sheila had been a Soroptimist for 44 years; latterly as an Honorary Member.

Margaret (Margot) Jones, SI Taunton, died on 9 January 2011 aged 83. A Soroptimist since 1969 Margot held various offices including President 1976-78. She was President of the South West and Channel Islands Region (then the Divisional Union) 1981-83 and Chair of the Federation Conference Committee in 1991.

Gwen Gardiner, OBE, SI Reading, Wokingham and Bracknell, died on 3 December 2010, aged 90. A Soroptimist for 45 years.

Margaret Rogerson SI Ashton-under-Lyne, died on 13 January



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2011 age 97. A Soroptimist for 55 years, Margaret was President in 1963-64 and 1979-80, Regional President in 1974, served on Regional Civic Action (now PAC), Regional Extension & Membership Officer for 6 years and was an Honorary Member.

Megan Owen, SI Bangor & District died on 22 January 2011 aged 94 years. A Soroptimist for over 40 years, was an Honorary Member and served as President in 1970-1971.

Margaret Chartres, SI Ballymoney & District died on 3 November 2010. Margaret was an active Soroptimist for 36 years, serving as Club President in 1980-81 and Divisional Union President (now Regional President) from 1984-85. She served in a number of roles including secretary and regional representative.

Margaret Evans, SI South Caernarfonshire, died 12 September 2010. A Soroptimist since 1983, she was Treasurer and then President for 2 years and was Secretary until a year before she died.

Enid Roberts, SI South Caernarfonshire, died 15th January 2011. A Soroptimist for 26 years Enid was President for two years and then Programme Action officer. She created the Peace Doll "Heddwyn". She was made an Honorary Member of SI South Caernarfonshire in 2004 and of the Region in 2005.

Margaret Potter, MBE, SI Bristol, died on 29 December 2010. Margaret was a Soroptimist for 41 years and served as Club President 1974-75 and Club Secretary. She also served a term as Regional Extension Officer.

Dr Maeve Rusk, SI Inverness & Nairn died 7 January 2011 aged 92. Our longest serving Member, she joined the Club in January 1955 and was Club President from 1959 to 1961.

Muriel Jones, SI Barry and District, died on 17 February 2011, aged 81. An active and loyal member of the Club for 33 years and served as Club President 1995-96.

TO SUBMIT AN OBITUARY

Please send obituaries to soroptimist@written-image.com.

Please ensure that you put OBITUARY in the subject box to make sure that we publish it - we receive far more items than we can publish so please make this clear.

The obituary should be written following the above format, including only the member's name, Club(s), age, time as a Soroptimist and offices held. There is no fee.

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