

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2017

Here is a brief summary of what has happened since the last newsletter.

We enjoyed our evening walk round Parys Mountain followed by a lovely supper at Ann Lastra's house in Amlwch. The weather was kind to us and we had some great views and a lovely time.

Our first meeting in September was supposed to be a celebration of International Literacy Day with our esteemed speaker and dinner at Bangor University. How disappointed we were with 104 tickets sold for it all to be cancelled at the last minute. The book we were highlighting "War on Women" is essential reading for all Soroptimists and both I and Michelle have copies if anyone still wants to read it. It gives first-hand information of the atrocities that many women in different cultures are suffering and although not an easy read, nevertheless explains a lot about what we strive against.

We attempted to spread our wings across Anglesey with the International Day of Peace display at the Beaumaris Leisure Centre in September. Not the best of venues but we gave it a go. October as always was busy with painting Valley pink to raise awareness to breast cancer and providing afternoon tea to the Blind Club in Llangefni. The people of Valley were very generous and we were delighted that 5 businesses dressed their windows. Stermat won the best dressed window display raising awareness to breast cancer. At our October meeting we had a round the world buffet and raised money for the foodbanks on Anglesey. This was in aid of World Food Day and SI Anglesey don't need much encouragement to enjoy a good spread!

This year's annual SIGBI Conference was in Cardiff and 11 of us attended. It was a busy 3 days with excellent speakers and feedback from interesting programme action activities across the Federation. However, it is fair to say that many of us were disappointed with the missed opportunity to showcase Wales and Welsh culture. There was recognition for the sterling work done by the Welsh anti-slavery group and SI Anglesey did get a mention in the membership session, and we were able to share an example of the dementia aprons with SI Wakefield. We again met up with our sisters from SI Lancaster and SI Darlington for an evening meal. We look forward to next year's conference which will be in Liverpool – near enough for more members to have a day trip there!!



November proved to be another busy month. We had a stall at the Winter Show and our theme was action against violence to women as well as modern day slavery and the purple teardrop campaign. We had a successful day on the Saturday which unfortunately clashed with the Regional change of insignia. However, we were able to have a presence at both events!

During November, 7 of us assisted in the beach clean on the Straits. We managed to collect a wide variety of plastics, food and fishing debris before treating ourselves to coffee and cake. That's Soroptimists for you, never miss an opportunity for action and refreshment.

At our November speaker meeting we had a very interesting session on becoming a dementia friend and now many of us are able to wear our dementia friend badge. At our business meeting we were able to present £250 to Janet Jones for the local Breast Cancer support group raised in Valley and Llangefni last year. Two wreaths were laid on Remembrance Sunday this year, one in Llangefni by Christine and one in Beaumaris by Rochelle. Again in an effort to spread ourselves round the Island.



Many of us enjoyed a Christmas coffee evening at Ann Lastra's home during December when money was raised for the Charity Fund. We were also able to deliver more than 40 shoe boxes to the homeless on the Island as well as the usual 6 overnight bags donated to Digartref for Nightstop. The Refugee children will again receive the selection boxes. A few of us met to stuff knitted toys that Barbara had knitted which will be given to Ysbwty Gynedd to all those children attending A & E over the Christmas period. Some activities are well worth maintaining.

Most of us met for a delicious Christmas meal at the Straits last week and had the chance to relax and enjoy our time together. A healthy donation to the International Presidents Appeal "Women, water and leadership" was again collected in lieu of Christmas cards.

So, after enjoying the Christmas break with family and friends we will meet back in January to again review our last year and decide what worked well and what we can improve on. We will be having a buffet again and have a chance to share ideas. One area of continuing concern is the stall. We are hoping to show the photos taken during the walking groups experiences over the last 12 months as well as hearing about the progress in Pulah Wah.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. I sincerely hope that 2018 will be a healthier, happier and a more peaceful year for all of us. If all else fails, let us eat cake!!

In friendship Mal