

DECEMBER 2018

Soroptimist News

100
years of
Soroptimism:
plan your
celebration

Meet
the new
SIGBI
Board

Meru
Women's
Garden
update!

- **SIGBI Conference 2018: Liverpool**
- **Soroptimist International of the Americas Conference: Yokohama**
- **Soroptimist International at The United Nations**

Women inspiring action,
transforming lives

www.sigbi.org

Soroptimist International Great Britain & Ireland is an organisation in Special Consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC) since July 2013. This is in addition to the General Consultative status held by the umbrella organisation Soroptimist International. Soroptimist International is a recognised Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) representing women from all over the world.

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Welcome to **Soroptimist News** from the Editor



The SIGBI Conference in Liverpool was a great success! A splendid conference venue, the fresh sea air, the fabulous gathering of SIGBI Members from across the Federation and an extremely well organised event... what more could you have wanted?

I thought the speakers were compelling and very well chosen, so a huge round of applause please for the Conference team!

Liverpool is a great place, especially for those of us who like to be by the sea AND enjoy the comforts and attractions of a thoroughly modern city – what more could you need?

I wished I had been able to stay longer and see more of the city and its wonderful buildings, but I did really enjoy seeing Soroptimists from across the Federation – I hope you had an equally good time!

So, as another year closes, I wish all our readers a very Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year!



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NEXT ISSUE: 16th February 2019, deadline for submissions: 8th January 2019

Please send your contributions and news to: Soroptimist@written-image.com. Please ensure that your submissions are similar in length to the items in this issue - that is, concise. Please ensure that photos are high resolution and sent as JPEG files, in the same email but not embedded in the text file. We are unable to use low resolution or low quality photos.

The Soroptimist News Schedule for 2019 is in the Members' area of the SIGBI website.



Think on it

President's message

Dear Soroptimist Friends,

I hope that those of you fortunate enough to attend the Federation Conference in Liverpool this year were inspired and re-energised by this year's top quality speakers and by the fabulous project work presented to us by so many Clubs across our Federation. For those unable to attend, this edition of our magazine should provide you with a flavour of what you missed, and as always, the website also provides visual images and daily members' blogs for you to catch up on the conference.

Many congratulations to Past President Susan and her committee for ensuring that we all had a wonderful time, were inspired to commit more support to improving the lives of women and girls and had time to catch up with old friends and make new friends along the way!

Many thanks to every member who has just left office, whether it has been as a Club, Region/National Association/Network or Country officer or indeed at Federation level – your contribution has been immensely important in encouraging us all to do greater things to support women and girls.

I have had the great privilege of installing many new Presidents to their posts for this year. I wish you well as our shared year progresses. It is not only Presidents that make our organisation so successful but all the Officers, Federation Councillors and Directors who contribute too. Thank you for stepping forward and taking on new, often demanding roles, I am not forgetting our effective staff team: Gina, Sally, Joanne and Selina in the office too. They make a difference every day to the experience we have as members.

In order to support other women and girls to change their lives for the better we must first start with ourselves. That is why I chose the theme "Think on it" for this year. I wanted to share a theme across our Federation which would bind us together in looking after each other and in doing so encourage newer members along with our longstanding members to promote the wellbeing of all of our members.

The more serious side of the theme of "Think on it" is around the mental health of the women and girls we support. I wanted a theme that gave us all the opportunity to look at our project work from a slightly different angle. We all recognise that the women and girls we support have experienced adverse life experiences, through domestic violence, female genital mutilation, imprisonment and trafficking for instance. However, did we ever stop to think about the impact these difficult experiences might have on their mental health and wellbeing?

There is an article on this theme elsewhere in the magazine, including details of a toolkit that has been developed, so please do take time to read this, and decide what you and your Club will do to promote it. Please share the news of any events that you hold in support of this theme. I look forward to reading about the inspiring and imaginative ways in which you have raised the important issue of wellbeing and good mental health in your area.

By the time you read this edition of the magazine, votes have been cast at our Conference for not only our new Federation Project but also on how we take our organisation forward as we take the first steps as a charity. I want to assure you that I will be a listening, reflective and responsive President. Together with the Federation Management Board we will continue to work to capitalise on our charitable status as well as trying to meet your aspirations for our organisation's future.

Thank you for the warmth of your welcome and for your kind messages of support. My best wishes for good health, happiness and peace in 2019. Until we are together again "Think on it!"

Sue

**Sue Williams, President,
Soroptimist International Great Britain and Ireland**



Soroptimist International Great Britain & Ireland 84th Federation Conference

Liverpool, England, 25-27 October 2018

25th October was a chilly day in Liverpool, with the wind blowing and famous Mersey river whipped up into a frenzy. That did absolutely nothing to deter 1200 Soroptimist delegates travelling from countries across the globe to join together to review the year and prepare for 2019.

THE OPENING CEREMONY

Often described by Members as the best part of Soroptimist Conferences, the Opening Ceremony brings joy, friendship and that all-important ingredient, a sense of belonging – more than a sense – this is a reality.

The warmth, the smiles, the fun elements are as important to this event as the serious reporting, discussion and planning for the future. Without that warmth, it would not bring so many Members together.

Tricia Coll, Conference Chairman and Linda Beddows MBE, Chief Steward, opened the event – the 84th Conference and held in Liverpool again after 26 years – and welcomed all the Members and guests, which included: The Right Worshipful Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Councillor Christine Banks who welcomed Members.

THE MAYOR OF LIVERPOOL

In her speech, The Mayor said that “Liverpool is one of the greatest cities in the world – and one of the friendliest” She also said that delegates should visit some of Liverpool’s best attractions – The Mersey, The Cavern Club where Liverpool’s most famous band launched their career

– The Beatles; the stunning buildings – museums, cathedrals and grand edifices, with a huge number of Grade 1 and 2 listed buildings, second only to London. The Mayor said to Soroptimists, “Enjoy it all, learn from the world, your message is fantastic! People like you are needed in the world, keep up your good hard work!”

THE PARADE OF FLAGS

During this much loved ceremony, Members from all the countries of the Federation bear their national flags and parade through the auditorium and onto the stage, to be displayed together. It is hugely colourful, truly moving and a very fast way of bonding the Members who will meet old friends and make new ones, to work together to improve the lives of women and girls.

Amongst the flags were the Soroptimist International flag, carried by Jo Darbyshire DL, OBE and accompanied by Mariet Verhoef-Cohen, President, Soroptimist International and, the United Nations flag carried by Isobel Huggett and accompanied by Barbara Dixon, Federation Programme Director.

The evening progressed with Dorcas Akeju OBE, President, SI Liverpool; The Roll Call, introduced by Tricia Coll, Conference Chairman and Linda Beddows, MBE and Chief Steward.

President Susan Biggs declared the Conference open. After much cheering, hugging and chatting, the delegates relaxed to join in



with the Lancashire duo, The Brothers of Swing, Daniel Murphy and Joseph Appleton, who provided a wonderful entertainment singing songs by Michael Buble, Frank Sinatra and other up-tempo numbers from the swing music era – Soroptimists don’t need much encouragement or persuasion – they were up there, dancing in the aisle, having a wonderful start to their Conference!

*Do you hear the people sing?
Singing the songs of angry men?
It is the music of the people
Who will not be slaves again!
When the beating of your heart
Echoes the beating of the drums
There is a life about to start
When tomorrow comes!
Les Misérables*





Emily Rose Yates

Introduced by Joan Smyth, CBE

Emily Rose Yates is an accessibility consultant, travel writer and television presenter from North Yorkshire, now living in Glasgow, Scotland.

She was one of the Games Makers at the London 2012 Paralympics, which, she said, “had lifted the clouds of limitation” for those with disabilities.

Emily told her story with an engaging mix of humour and passion, drawing her audience in to her world, showing what wheelchair users can – and indeed do – build an impressive career, have adventures, meet people and make friends across the world.

EMILY'S JOURNEY

Aged just 16, Emily left school in Skipton, Yorkshire in 2008 and was, she said, very lucky to go on her first adventure – with JoLT – The Journey of a Lifetime Trust.

JoLT takes groups of young people (24 in this case) with very varied issues, on amazing trips, Emily's was to Namibia, Africa.

The first experience/challenge was to get to the top of a huge sand hill, which, said Emily, certainly identified what she could not do... but it also made her realise what she really could do.

The trip continued with further challenges. The group was taken to Capetown in a boat, dressed in wetsuits, put in cages and lowered into the sea to find themselves surrounded by sharks.

This first trip (with many more amazing challenges), launched Emily Rose's career, in which she helped at the Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, then spent two years there as a consultant on transport issues.

She then wrote a book for Lonely Planet on accessible travel, which was a great success, but, said Lonely Planet, as only 20% of people would be interested in such books, it wasn't worthwhile.

Emily Rose Yates is certainly worthwhile and she will certainly achieve many more amazing things in her career.

Read more on her website at: www.emilyroseyates.co.uk



Terry Waite CBE

Introduced by Joan Smyth, CBE

Terry Waite, former hostage, a writer, lecturer and humanitarian – and one of the most engaging speakers you could listen to.

In the 1980s, Terry was the Assistant for Anglican Communion Affairs for Robert Runcie, Archbishop of Canterbury and an envoy for the Church of England.

He travelled to Lebanon to try to secure the release of four hostages, one of which was the journalist John McCarthy.

Terry was also taken hostage and held in solitary confinement for nearly five years, enduring terrible conditions.

He said that it was ‘like being burned alive’ and that “you have to learn to survive mentally and physically” but he added that “From extreme situations you can take understandings about the events that happen in real life.”

Terry described some of his appalling experiences, saying that loneliness was one of the worst, but the horror of his situation, chained to the floor, allowed just a few moments each day for a wash, nobody to talk to, no idea whether he would live or die and indeed, how he would die. In an effort to remain sane, said Terry, he mentally wrote his autobiography, section by section so that he could, hopefully, remember it.

He was, eventually (much to his surprise) released and returned home to England to find that his children had grown up during his absence.

Terry said to Soroptimists that. “We are, today, too quick to go to war. Many situations can be helped by talking. You need to find out why people are unhappy and try to talk about it.

“We have the power to create ‘good’ change for the better – warfare doesn't resolve situations.”

Terry is now President of the charity Y Care International, the YMCA's International development and relief agency.

Terry later met Soroptimists and signed copies of his wonderful books.



Dr. Helen Pankhurst

Introduced by Jo Darbyshire

The mere mention of the name ‘Pankhurst’ is enough to get any modern woman standing up and calling for more rights for women – especially this year, 100 years on since women in the UK were given the right to vote.

Dr. Helen Pankhurst certainly lives up to her family name and she was warmly welcomed by Soroptimists in Conference.

Helen, the great granddaughter of Emmeline and granddaughter of Sylvia Pankhurst is a women's rights activist and senior advisor to CARE International, based in Ethiopia.

She reflected on the suffrage movement, asking “How far have we got?” and “What's still to do?”

Soroptimists across the world know that there is indeed, much still to be done – we have to keep telling girls about the suffragette

Meet the speakers

movement, why it happened, what it achieved, what it means now.

Helen said that the story must be told, the way that it brought women together, across class, colour and upbringing – and that it isn't just about ‘The Vote’, it was – and is – a vision, an ambition, for women.

In a sometimes colourless world, the suffragettes gave some colour, daring to stand out, refusing to fill in census forms, challenging society's view of what women should be doing.

Helen had many tales of what women have done to challenge the male bastions – in one story, she said that a cricket club was refusing to allow women to go in there. The men said that they were, of course, welcome – “They make the tea!”

The women responded by burning down the cricket club.

Not, perhaps, how we need to behave today, but there is still much to do to – women fought to have the right to vote, to be able to buy property, to be allowed to sign hire purchase arrangements – and women are still fighting for their rights.

Finally, said Helen, join the Womens' Rights-march in London on 3rd March 2019!



Ellie Bird Lenawarungu

Introduced by Jo Darbyshire DL, OBE

The lady pictured above doesn't look much like a policewoman, let alone a Chief Superintendent, Area Command – the first woman in the police force to achieve that role.

Ellie joined in 1981 and served the West Midlands force for 30 years, an environment where opportunities for women were limited.

Ellie was determined to change that and she was involved in a national project, "Gender Agenda" to maximise the contribution of women in policing.

However, it is the years since her retirement from the police that Ellie believes have been the more informative and influential.

She has worked in Rwanda, Uganda, Egypt and Kenya, advising on sexual and gender-based violence and the role of women in police support.

Ellie spoke about her experiences in those countries and how you can talk to women and they will agree to attend a seminar... but it takes much more to get them to move on – to enable them. To learn to enable herself so that she could enable others, Ellie went to Base Camp Everest, she could do it, she would do it – and she made herself do it.

In 2013 Ellie made her first trip to Kenya. She met a group of young women police officers who said that girls and young women there didn't have the money to buy sanitary towels and that some accepted being raped in return for being given sanitary towels.

Since then Ellie has established two clubs "Rise up, let's go" as part of a project to help young women to grow and to understand their bodies and their rights.

Ellie also spoke about FMG and 'the cutting season'. This practice still takes place every year, during 'the cutting season' and the practice continues because it is taboo for women to discuss this with their daughters.

Now, says Ellie, the older women are saying that it must stop – and they are more persuasive than outsiders.

Now the young women want skills, they want to be strong and capable and they want the simplest things, soap, sanitary towels and panties.



Sally Kettle

Introduced by Jo Darbyshire DL, OBE

Sally Kettle is someone you might describe as 'a real character' and she is, indeed, a real character.

Sally was the first woman to row the Atlantic Ocean twice from East to West – once with her mother.

She has also taken part in the last leg of the World Clipper race and retraced the steps of Nancy Wake, a World War Two heroine, across the Pyrenees with Suzanne Dando, an Olympic gymnast, to honour Nancy's contribution to the war.

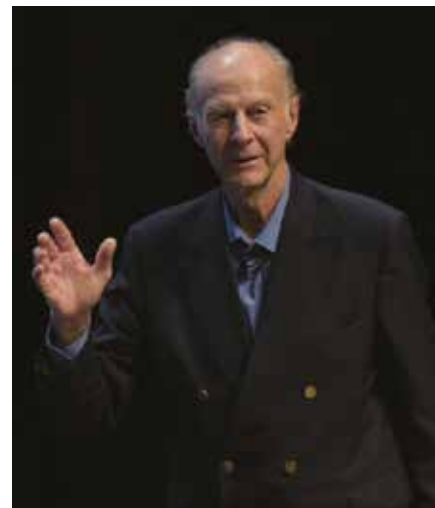
Her tales were hilarious, Sally is a natural storyteller and she held her audience spellbound as she described the highs and lows of being an adventurer.

Her sailing career started when her then partner, Tommo, suggested that they row The Atlantic together in a race to Barbados organised by Chay Blyth, the famous yachtsman.

Sally's tales about the following challenges were hilarious, keeping the delegates very well amused, but it is the underlying strength of people who do 'crazy things' that is the most interesting thing.

She found herself alone on their boat when Tommo became unwell and had to leave the race – but she carried on, alone in the ocean, inexperienced, exhausted but never giving up. Sally is now an Ambassador for the Girl Guides and a supporter of ShelterBox, volunteering as part of the International ShelterBox Response Team.

Below: Sally Kettle in her little boat that took her safely across The Atlantic Ocean.



Sir Ranulph Fiennes OBE

Introduced by Jo Darbyshire DL, OBE

Sir Ranulph Fiennes – full name Sir Ranulph Twisleton-Wykeham-Fiennes 3rd Baronet – is a legendary adventurer, former soldier who served in the British Army for eight years which included a stint with the Army of the Sultanate of Oman.

Sir Ranulph was, for a period, the only man alive to have travelled the surface of the world's polar axis.

He has led 22 major expeditions to the most remote parts of the world, he has been a soldier and even when he was 65, in 2009, he climbed to the summit of Mount Everest, the oldest Briton to do so.

According to the Guinness Book of Records, he is the world's greatest living explorer.

The world's greatest explorer is not, perhaps, the sort of person that would be hilarious when recounting his experiences to an audience of 1000 women. He was though, and the women loved it.

Packed with really funny stories about his career, his reason for the explorations and the lessons he learnt along the way, this was a brilliant account of the life of a man who had little but created a legendary life – and remained modest, entertaining and inspirational.

One final comment that truly brought the house down was Sir Ranulph's advice that if you do manage to reach the summit of whichever 'Pole' you are climbing – you must immediately raise your flag – before "the French" get there!

Below: Sir Ranulph Fiennes signed books for Soroptimists.



Soroptimist International Great Britain & Ireland 84th Federation Conference



Dr Ann-Marie Wilson

Introduced by Joan Smyth CBE

Dr Anne-Marie Wilson is a highly respected psychologist who first encountered FGM in 2005, while working in a refugee camp in Sudan.

Anne-Marie described her experiences there and in other countries and said that after meeting survivors of FGM, and realising that so few people know about the practice – and the fact that over 140 million girls and women have suffered the pain and longterm issues caused by FGM – she was so shocked that she decided to do more to end it.

Anne-Marie founded 28 Too Many, an anti-FGM charity working across 28 countries in Africa and the diaspora, including the practising communities in the UK.

She has published research reports on FGM on 10 countries and become an Associate Member of the UN Inter-African Committee. 28 Too Many takes the data to show organisations and legal groups the facts.

Among many disturbing facts, Anne-Marie said that FGM has now, in some places, been 'medicalised' by carrying out the operation in hospitals – it is more sanitised but still extremely risky and girls are still dying from the operation – though this is recorded as being due to a haemorrhage.

Other terrible statistics included:

- 87% of 95 million girls in Egypt are cut – slightly fewer in Eritrea.
- 55million girls in Africa under 15 will have already experienced or will do so in the next few years.
- Only 22 out of 28 countries in Africa have anti-FGM legislation – meaning that in six countries it is a completely legal practice.
- Women are told that it is said in the Koran that FGM is right – but it does not.

Anne-Marie added that her mission is to meet every faith leader in the world and convince them that FGM has to stop.

She has already met The Pope and The Archbishop of Canterbury, the senior bishop and principal leader of the Church of England – but there is much more to do.

Read more about Anne-Marie's charity at www.28toomany.org



Mariet Verhoef-Cohen

Introduced by Joan Smyth CBE

Mariet is President, Soroptimist International and she declared that she was delighted to be in the home of The Beatles... in Penny Lane... and all this "Before I'm 64!"

Mariet gave delegates an update on the work of Soroptimists across the Federations, saying that there are many challenges across the world but that Soroptimists across the world are working to improve the lives of women and children – and that she is mesmerised by the projects and achievements of Members in all the Federations.

Mariet spoke about the new structure at Soroptimist International, which is now working very efficiently, with SI Representatives at the United Nations in New York, Vienna, Paris, Geneva, Rome and Nairobi – and, soon, in Bangkok!

She further explained how Soroptimists' work provides evidence for Soroptimist International to channel the information to the SI UN representatives, who use the information in UN discussions.

This means that the work of Soroptimists across the world is distributed to the global membership and thence to the wider world – this is very powerful!

WOMEN, WATER AND LEADERSHIP

Mariet also urged Members to get involved in the making 17 Development Goals a reality.

Soroptimist International is, said the President, moving beyond issues like access to water to empower women to turn them into leaders – to be involved with the management of projects and programmes, to get women out of the poverty trap and become leaders.

One of these projects is Long Tanyit in the Belaga District of Sarawak, one of two locations in Malaysia to be supported by the SI President's Appeal, 'Women, Water & Leadership'.

This progressive project is spearheaded by Soroptimist International Region of Malaysia (SIROM), and the Penan villagers are heavily involved in the leadership and management of the project – their vested interest lies in helping to ensure its ongoing sustainability for future generations.



Federation Management Board 2018-2019



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Isobel Smith
President Elect



Barbara Dixon
Vice President



Immediate Past President
Susan Biggs



Director of Finance
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Shirley Jones



Director Without Portfolio
Judi Chaddock



Director Without Portfolio
Catherine Cottridge



Procedural Consultant
Maureen Maguire



HR Liaison
Claire Bell

Soroptimists in Conference 2018: Liverpool



SIGBI Best Practice Awards

Presented at the SIGBI Conference
by Barbara Dixon



ADVOCACY

Finalists:

SI Durham for their project:
The Real Citizenship Test

SI San Fernando for their project:
Single Use Plastic

SI Madurai for their project:
Enabling Students to Find Solutions For
The Purification Of Water

WINNER: SI San Fernando



EDUCATION

Finalists:

SI Garstang for their project:
Classroom In The Clouds

SI Cannock for their project:
Your Body, Your Rules

SI Llandudno for their project:
Umeed Project

WINNER: SI Cannock



HEALTHCARE

Finalists:

SI San Fernando for their project:
Endometriosis

SI Bilston for their project:
Cardiac Screening For The Young

SI Great Yarmouth for their project:
Neat Feet Happy Hands

WINNER: SI Bilston



ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Finalists:

SI Kenilworth for their project:
Friends of Sick Children In Malawi

SI Manchester for their project:
Heal Malawi

SI Kathmandu for their project:
Tailoring

WINNER: SI Manchester



ENVIRONMENT

Finalists:

SI St Albans for their project:
Tree Planting

SI San Fernando for their project:
Negative Effects Of Single Use Plastic

SI Madurai for their project:
Importance of Waste Segregation

WINNER: SI Madurai



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Finalists:

SI Lichfield for their project:
Educating On Violence Against Women

SI Yaoude for their project:
Child Marriage

SI Scarborough & SI Halifax:
Operation Stella

WINNER: SI Yaoude

OVERALL WINNER: SI San Fernando

SIGBI Programme Team 2018 - 2019

Dr Kay Richmond, Programme Director

Nisha Ghosh, Naina Shah, Margaret Clark

Caroline Infanti, Yvonne Gibbon



Soroptimist International at The United Nations

SI President Mariet Verhoef-Cohen
Liliana Mosca, SI UN Representative
SI President Elect, Sharon Fisher
and Beverley Bucur report.

How does SI participate in a High Level Political Forum (HLPF)?

The first time that non-governmental organisations were granted consultative status was in 1946, when Article 71 of the UN Charter opened the door for consultation with Non Governmental Organisations. Initially 41 organisations were chosen. Soroptimist International received General Consultative Status with the UN in 1987.

As of July 2018, there are a total of 5,081 organisations in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), but only 134 have general consultative status. Only 11 of the 134 organisations focus on women and girls, so we have a very important role.

General Consultative Status is granted to organisations that are concerned with most of the activities of the Social and Economic Council and can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Council that they have substantial and sustained contributions to make to the achievement of the objectives of the United Nations in a wide range of activities and in a large number of countries. To maintain our consultative status Soroptimist International is required to submit a report every four years documenting our work in the UN Centres throughout the world and our international projects.

There are 3,975 organisations that have Specialised Consultative status. Organisations that have a special competence in, and are concerned specifically with, only a few of the fields of activity have special consultative status. SI Europe received Specialised Consultative status in 2011, SI Great Britain and Ireland received Specialised Consultative Status in 2013 and Soroptimist International of Southwest Pacific received Specialised Consultative Status in 2014.

Organisations that do not have general or special consultative status but have special expertise and can contribute to the work of the Council are given the designation of Roster Status. There are 973 organisations on the Roster currently.

Soroptimist International has 20 UN representatives in 7 UN centres, specialised agencies and regional centres focusing on issues that affect women and girls. Soroptimist International focuses on Sustainable Development Goals: 4 Education, 5 Gender Equality and 6 Water for the President's Appeal. While the focus is on these three, all 17 SDGs intersect and it is impossible to achieve one without touching on the rest.

To learn more about the work of the UN



Representatives, visit the Soroptimist International website: www.soroptimistinternational.org. You can find informative blogs by our UN reps, information about meetings that Soroptimist International has participated in, SI President's Messages, Information about Women, Water and Leadership, the current President's Appeal and much more. Be sign up for the Global Voice to receive updates and links to current news.

News from the Food and Agriculture Organisation, Rome

President, Mariet Verhoef-Cohen, President-Elect, Sharon Fisher and Director of Advocacy, Bev Bucur, joined SI UN Representative, Liliana Mosca in Rome for the Civil Society Mechanism for relations with the UN Committee on World Food Security, 13-14th October, 2018. NGOs from all parts of the world discussed issues relating to food security.

Discussions included the link between food and health, genetically modified food, climate change and the effects on food production, loss of agricultural land due to urbanization, food waste and the inability to transport food to those who need it.

Women's contributions to food production are not valued. The traditional knowledge women possess is not used and traditional foods are being replaced with foods with less nutritional value as corporations take over farming. The introduction of these non-traditional foods, along with the addition of sugar and salt to food is creating an obesity epidemic.

The Civil Society Report on the Implementation of the Right to Food Guidelines (2018) can be accessed here: <http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/cfs/CF545/sessions/gtedocs/EN-CSM-RtF-2018-compressed.pdf>

The 45th session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS 45) convened from 15-19 October 2018, at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN (FAO) in Rome, Italy, following the CSM. More than 1600 delegates, representing CFS Members, non-Member States, UN agencies and bodies, civil society and private sector organisations, international finance and research organisations, philanthropic foundations and observers, attended the session.

José Graziano da Silva, FAO Director-General, emphasized the need to take action on nutrition, stating that otherwise hunger will undermine the 2030 Agenda. He stressed the growing trend of obesity, especially in Asia and Africa; the importance of addressing diets; the need for policies and actions at the national level; the

importance of developing voluntary guidelines on food systems and nutrition; the role of rural women; the UN Decade of Family Farming 2019-2028; and the need to strengthen CFS.

David Beasley, World Food Programme, Executive Director, highlighted how conflict in war zones drives hunger and makes food unaffordable, and called for a humanitarian development perspective.

Soroptimist International President, Mariet Verhoef-Cohen was invited to speak to FAO staff about the importance of including women in decision making at FAO. Her presentation was well received and much needed.

To read the full summary of this conference, please go to: <http://enb.iisd.org/download/pdf/sd/enbplus184num21e.pdf>

United Nations Vienna

The Ninth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime was held at the United Nations in Vienna the 15-19 October 2018. The focus of the conference was trafficking, cybercrime and transnational crime.

A side event, Contemporary Enslavement of Women, organised by Soroptimist UN Representatives Martina Gredler and Christine Peer, NGO Committee on the Status of Women Vienna and Academic Council on the United Nations Systems – (ACUNS).

The purpose of the side-event was to raise awareness about contemporary enslavement and trafficking, encourage exchange of information and lessons learned, and to develop international co-operation amongst all activists who fight contemporary slavery. President-Elect, Sharon Fisher and Soroptimist Professor Jackie Jones, Professor of Feminist Legal Studies, Bristol Law School, UWE, participated on the panel.

SI President-Elect, Sharon Fisher focused on the President's Appeal, 2015-2016 Educate to Lead Nepal, sharing a best practice model of how providing education and training opportunities stopped the trafficking of women and girls in that village.

The event was well attended, with IE President, Renata Trottman Probst, and Soroptimists from five countries in attendance.

Visit the Soroptimist International website for a comprehensive report of the conference written by Communications Manager, Sara Wilkin.

For resources about human trafficking and the smuggling of migrants go to: <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/publications.html>

Soroptimist International of The Americas 2018 Convention: Yokohama, Japan

Sue Williams, SIGBI President, 2018-2019, reports



We arrived in Yokohama on a highly efficient bullet train running speedily from a typhoon into blistering heat, 40 degrees and high humidity (50% -70%) in time for the 45th SIA Biennial Convention on July 30th to 2nd August.

Japan is everything it's described as and more! Beautiful, blending history and traditions with its rapid development and growth as a modern, thriving country.

Everything is clean and tidy, there is absolutely no litter as people do not eat or drink in public places, including the rapid and punctual transport system.

The transport system is fully integrated. Bullet trains, local trains, subways, trams, buses and water taxis all run to time! Rules of the road are strictly obeyed and pedestrians do not jay walk at all.

Japanese people bow when they greet you and when they say goodbye. They are quiet, polite and reserved people and expect others to do likewise. When eating in Japanese restaurants we became adept at using chopsticks and being vegetarian, or vegan, meat or fish eater or indeed having any dietary need, was no problem at all.

The Convention was set in

Yokohama, Japan's second city, the city of "dreams". A large modern conference centre and adjacent to the Convention hotel and within 100 yards of an array of shops and restaurants. Each Club in SIA contributes \$500, the registration fee, to the convention whether they send a delegate or not, quite a difference from SIGBI!

The theme for the Convention "Stars, Dreams and Wishes" promised to be an aspirational, informative, inspirational and fun event. As a result, 2,000 women converged on Yokohama to celebrate the success of their two SIA projects "Live your dream" and "Dream it, be it", recognising the star members of SIA and envisioning the future of their Federation whilst refreshing friendships, both old and newly formed.

Opening ceremony

The Convention started with a standing reception, "Writing our wishes", for 500 guests, each paying \$80 to attend. During the event, as President Elect and representing President Susan, I was able to bring greetings from the members of Soroptimist International Great Britain and Ireland (SIGBI) and highlight

many of the projects we carry out across our Federation. Please visit the SIA website to learn more about what I said both in Japanese and in English!

During the evening, entertainment was provided by Michiko Godai, a Japanese star of stage and screen and the Yokohama Jazz Band.

Duly opened, the next three days of the Convention followed roughly the same format of presentations and workshops, but always starting at 6.30 am with a "Fun Walk". Needless to say, the President Elect of SIGBI didn't take part in the exercise!

It was also interesting to see that the convention dealt with the sticky issue of coffee time and the inevitable queues by not providing any mid-morning breaks!

The brochure for the Convention was in both English and Japanese and the bag contained publicity materials. Two nice touches were the autocue for speakers, resulting in speakers looking at the delegates rather than at their speeches, and allocated time for Regions to have an official photograph on the stage.

Convention Day 1

The first full day of the convention included the flag ceremony or "Salute to the Nation" followed by



membership awards. Soroptimist International (SI) President, Mariet Verhoef-Cohen, provided an informative presentation about the progress of the SI project "Women, Water and Leadership". The project to provide safe, accessible water crucial to life, for Mwioko women in Kenya, the WeWash project in Bulgaria and the Long Tanyit project in Malaysia can be accessed at www.soroptimistinternational.org.

We also received an invitation to the SI convention in Malaysia in 2019 from the Convention Chair, Siew Yong.

Delegates then had the opportunity to join one of eight workshops, supporting "Live Your Dream" and "Dream it, Be it" projects. These included fundraising ideas, raising the profile of the Federation using social media, membership recruitment, different Club types or how to open a new Club. All of the workshops were supported effectively by a translation service.

Convention Day 2

During the day SIA President Dawn Marie presented their Next Big Goal: invest in the Dreams of Half a Million Women and Girls through Access to Education and she encouraged members to donate more money to their projects. She also led a discussion across the floor and in small groups about the way in which Clubs should be represented and voting rights for Clubs in the future.

Members were recognised throughout the day for their financial contribution to SIA and encouraged to donate further amounts to realise the project work. Whilst Clubs do programme work in addition to the main two SIA projects this did not feature in the programme.

The Mayor of Yokohama, Fumko Hayashi, a keynote speaker, listed in Forbes Magazine as one of the world's 100 most influential women, described her upbringing in a single parent family, her professional life as an Operating Officer for Honda Motors and her role as Yokohama's Mayor in reinventing the cultural future of the city.

During her keynote address she provided a fresh look at the empowerment of women and girls through education.

In the evening there was a Shining Stars Recognition Banquet for 1500 delegates, costing \$150, which provided an opportunity to recognise the leadership of SIA's governors and Directors, installation of SIA President 2018 -19 Elizabeth Di Geronimo and



the fundraising efforts of individual members much as our Change of Insignia event does for SIGBI. Entertainment was provided by the Noh Theatre.

Convention Day 3

On the final day of the convention there was a presentation by three women who had been the recipients of \$25,000 each, donated by one of the many non-Soroptimist supporters SIA attracts, Torrid.

Their emotional speeches described the adverse life experiences they had been able to overcome because of the grants they had received to build on their education and skills.

Throughout the convention delegates were encouraged to write Haiku's, short Japanese poems of 17 syllables and 3 verses and to place them on trees in the entrance to the Convention Centre. Many of these Haiku's are available on the SIA website.

My heart yearns for you
To have – equal – to your full.

Seven delegates and a Soroptimister from SIGBI, one delegate from Soroptimist international of Europe and five delegates from Soroptimist International of South West and the

Pacific, including three from the SI Convention 2019 committee attended the SIA Convention. It was great to meet up with SIGBI delegates and to discuss the things we had learned at the convention of another Federation.

Attending SIA's Convention was an unforgettable experience giving me a unique insight into the strengths and challenges, many the same as ours, faced by another Federation.

I appreciated and valued our own Conference even more having attended SIA's Convention. The SIA Convention gave me the opportunity to network and meet the many social media contacts I have made across our Soroptimist world.

It enabled me to renew my commitment to our work in support of women and girls and reinforced the hospitality and friendship shown by Soroptimists to others.

This Convention showed how much we have in common through our project work, but that there are many ways to achieve our shared goals. It also showed how much more there is still to achieve.

It was a pleasure to attend this Convention on your behalf, a lifetime experience, and an unforgettable opportunity to listen and learn from such committed Soroptimists.

Liz Batten, SI Winchester, writes: This was my first American Convention too, and it proved a very interesting experience. Ruth Healey and I were keen to attend in support of SIA President Dawn Marie Lemonds, who is a dear friend to us both and we were so pleased that she enveloped us into her 'family' for much of the week, which was very generous.

In addition to learning fundraising tips (their Clubs are very good at that!) I attended their 'New Clubs' workshop, apposite, as I endeavour to start a new SI Salisbury Club.

I was in awe of the way they seem to be able to get a new Club running, start to charter in less than two years.

I certainly will make full use of their ideas. Certainly a very different feel to our own Federation Conference, but a great opportunity to meet familiar SIA friends and to make a few new ones too.



Meru Women's Garden

Singing and dancing!



Patricia Gatherum
Federation Project Liaison reports

Our 84th Conference is over! On the Meru Women's Garden Project front it was a great success. We had a wonderful stall filled with gifts bought by study tour attendees to Meru County – many bought from the women taking part in our programme. There were some items which had been crafted from the Kangas that we were given by our very talented Barbara Dixon. I thank her for all the hard work and creativity involved in this.

A picture donated by SI Chester to be raffled, raised £520 and the total raised was £884. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this, and to Amanjit and Beth for manning the stall so admirably.

Now we embark on the final 11 months of the project, so I thank you for your support to date and for your future efforts. Together we have raised £130,917. 23p so I know that the future is bright for the women of Meru.

An update on Meru from Child.org

Year 2 of the project has made a positive start, following a similar timeline to Year 1, including the year long Agricultural Training, two Alternative Rite of Passage sessions and one Boys' Forum. This year we introduced the six month long Mother's Nutritional Training course.

So far the Agricultural Training has exceeded targets; in the original plan for Year 2 we wanted to reach four groups totalling 120 women. This year we have already recruited six groups totalling 176 women. Similarly to Year 1 the women were first taught mainly theory to gauge their interest and dedication of the course. Now the women have started the practical side of training which is delivered in weekly group sessions with all participants and monthly in-depth sessions at the CIFORD centre with key group members.

The Mothers' Nutritional Training has also been successfully implemented and this year we are working with 92 women.

The women attend fortnightly training sessions at the CIFORD centre. They receive important information on nutrition for themselves and their babies to make sure both are healthy and well. The sessions help mothers understand the importance of good nutrition and give them the opportunity to meet other mothers in Meru.



Consolata, pictured above, has attended the nutritional groups since September. Her son, Victor, is five months old and she said, "The nutritional content has really helped me. I am being taught during my antenatal clinics but after giving birth, the child only goes to be immunised, there is nothing I am taught." Consolata receives support from her mother but not from Victor's father. When pregnant she was afraid of being judged by people, but by going to the groups Consolata has learnt that there are many other young girls just like her who have had children, it's not just her.

The Meru Women's Garden Project continues to empower, educate and enable women in Meru county and Consolata is just one of many who have hugely benefited from the project and will continue to benefit into the future.

To learn more about the project in detail and see a full break down and financial report, please visit the meruwomen.org website and on the homepage click on the "view our most recent project update" for the full report.

CLUB NEWS

SI Cannock and Stafford welcomed Patricia Gatherum to celebrate their International Evening. Patricia had travelled from Newcastle-Upon-Tyne to be with them. She is the coordinator for the project that Soroptimist International of Great Britain and Ireland (SIGBI) have been supporting for the last three years in the Meru district of Kenya and had recently returned from a study tour, so was able to tell everyone how the project is progressing.

At the end of a fascinating talk SI Cannock and Stafford President, June, presented Patricia with a cheque for £500 raised from their Open Gardens weekend in the summer.

SI Buxton & District held a meeting with speakers John and Sue Boardman, who gave an talk about the volunteers at the Serpentine Garden Nursery, of Buxton and their work.

Their mantra of "We grow plants. we grow people" is very much in line with Soroptimists' ideals. The couple brought artefacts with them, gave practical tips on horticulture, and gave seeds to each member. Buxton Soroptimists support The Meru Garden Project, Mary's Meals, Humanity Inclusive and Water Aid.

Members of **SI Jersey** and friends enjoyed a walk around the lanes in the autumn sunshine and then Pimms, tea and cake at the home of SI supporter Rosemarie Trott. A loveley afternoon raising £150 for the Meru Women's Garden Project.

On a beautiful summer evening SI Milford Haven held a Gardeners' Question Time at the St Ishmael's Garden Centre. Two Members, Heather Phippen and Geraldine Morgan were on the panel along with Simon Joules the owner of the garden centre. The large audience posed lots of questions that the panel answered without prior knowledge of what they were going to asked. The proceeds from the evening will be divided between the Meru Garden Project and other charities.



SI Cannock



SI Milford Haven



SI Jersey

Friendship Links

Partnering projects

Bhaswati Biswas,
Friendship Link Coordinator, reports

The friendly gesture by Friendship Link Clubs in extending a warm helping hand whenever possible is commendable. Working in 'partnership' not only gives the Clubs an opportunity to exchange ideas, expertise to plan a successful project and at times much needed funds.

A combined effort creates an impact.

Likewise the Federation Conference in Liverpool gave me the platform to observe, interact and sharpen my skills. Maintain your ties with your Friendship Links and keep writing. Two to three Clubs from a region may come together if the project is sustainable and benefits the community.

I am delighted to share some of the 'partnership projects' that made a difference:

ENGLAND MEETS AUSTRIA... IN CRETE!

Two Soroptimist sisters, Jane Inman from SI Cockermouth & District, Northern England and Lydia Isola from SI Murau, Austria met in their 'second' home Crete on the Soroptimist International Club Friendship Day to sign the Certificate of Friendship. A great start to a new Friendship Link!

The two Clubs are involved in an environmental project at the Recycling and Waste Management Centre in Chania Crete with Kissamos Environment group. This visit enabled them to learn together and to share this knowledge with their club members. Both Jane and Lydia share a personal and Club friendship which they hope will develop into the two Clubs working together in support of their Programme Action projects.

Since 2012, SI Cockermouth has supported the work of the Purple Community Fund. This charity enables and empowers families who live on dumpsites in the Philippines to develop skills in making jewellery and handbags from ring pulls. The money raised enables the families to send their children to school.

Friendship and partnership played a major



SI Pune Metro East and SI Bangalore



SI Winchester and SI Kismu support The Smiling School in Kenya

role in getting the local community and the sister Clubs in the region of Northern England to collect over 100,000 ring pulls. The charity based in the south of England is now working in the UK with women prisoners and women asylum seekers in a similar way.

ENGLAND MEETS SIERRA LEONE!

The members of SI Newcastle & District extended their hands of friendship to SI Freetown, Sierra Leone by organising a Chinese banquet and raised funds to the tune of £700 for education and mentoring programmes of women and girls in Sierra Leone.

At the Conference in Liverpool, members of both Clubs were excited to meet their friends at the Friendship Link Stand and the cheque was presented to SI Freetown. SI Newcastle & District now looks forward to their new partnership and working with them in the future.

ENGLAND MEETS...ENGLAND!

SI Wrekin and SI Stourbridge, the two Friendship Links jointly decided to raise funds for a noble cause. The Members save 20p pieces for the 'Educate to Lead' project in Nepal. To celebrate the occasion, members of both the Clubs came together on this Friendship Day with their friends from SI Bootle and met over lunch at Chester Cathedral. The members know for sure through 'partnership' they can see light of the day.

ENGLAND MEETS... AFRICA!

Over a period of some nine years, SI Winchester has been working on a project with their Friendship Link SI Kisumu in Kenya. In 2009 SI Winchester was approached with the idea of supporting a nursery school in Ebusakami, Luanda, one of the poorest and most densely populated areas in western Kenya. Primary education is free for all children but not preschool education, which is too expensive.



SI Wrekin, SI Stourbridge and SI Bootle

The Members of SI Winchester decided to raise funds for the development of the school. Clean and safe drinking water was on the priority list of SI Kisumu. More than £4000 raised has helped in the installation of a huge water tank and school essentials (new classrooms, desks and benches, books and stationery).

In recognition of the contribution made by SI Winchester, the school has been renamed 'Smiling School' using SIGBI's dynamic 'S'. SI Winchester continues to partner with SI Kisumu as to them fundraising for this project has been painless, indeed pleasurable. To further enhance the school, SI Winchester has agreed to support the building of a school kitchen at a cost of £750.

PUNE MEETS BANGALORE

Menstrual Hygiene is an important topic in India today. SI Pune Metro East joined SI Bangalore to distribute sanitary napkins to two hundred women and girls. Funds were raised by employees of Gallagher & Co. at Pune and Bangalore. SIPME undertook the manufacture of affordable, hygienic and biodegradable sanitary napkins (Saheli) at the unit in Wai. SI Bangalore distributed them to their chosen organisation. Yet another example of working in partnership.

A SIGBI Friendship day was held at the National Memorial Arboretum on 22nd September 2018 to celebrate the UN Day of Peace on 21st September 2018, with members from SI Lichfield, The Isle of Man, Newcastle under Lyme, Burton upon Trent, Tamworth and Bilston.

AND FINALLY...

Keep writing to me on 'partnership' projects, or any visit by a Soroptimist, celebrations with your Friendship Links. Kindly mail photographs with high resolution separately.

E: sigbifriendshipink.bhaswati@gmail.com



Members at the Memorial Arboretum

100 years of Soroptimism on the horizon

Time to plan our celebrations!

Ann Hodgson, SIGBI President 2016-17, reports

Three years and counting and questions are being asked – “What are we doing to mark our 100th anniversary in 2021?”

Well, like many of you, the Federation Management Board (FMB) of Soroptimist International Great Britain & Ireland Ltd (SIGBI) has started its conversations. We have some ideas already, which include:

- An event to mark the centenary – perhaps at the National Memorial Arboretum
- Some jewellery to showcase the occasion
- A SIGBI 100th anniversary first day cover showcasing a series of stamps marking 100 years of Soroptimism and our work
- A campaign or programme activity which is external facing and raises our profile during this important time in our history
- A publicity campaign to raise awareness of the occasion and our achievements.

SAVE THE DATE: 1st - 3rd October 2021

Soroptimist International started in Oakland, USA in 1921. Soroptimist International of Americas (on behalf of Soroptimist International) is planning a celebration event to mark the 100 years so act now and save the date!

GET INVOLVED

The FMB cannot do this on its own, so it wants to establish a working group to plan and implement our celebrations. Are you interested? If you are, please send an expression of interest to Gina Coad in the SIGBI office via email at hq@sigbi.org. More information will follow in a News Briefing.



Soroptimists present in May 1940 for the presentation of the ambulances. President Alice Williams is centre with the Quartermaster General

HAVE YOUR SAY

- Our ideas to mark our 100th anniversary are not fixed. So, let us know your thoughts.
- What would you like to see to mark this significant anniversary?
- What type of event should we hold?
- And where should we hold it?

YOUR ACTIVITIES

We know that some of you are already making plans. We would like to know what they are so that we can:

- Share them across our Federation
- Avoid clashes, where possible
- Ensure that we are all aware of them

If you have any questions please contact Ann Hodgson at annhodgson07@btinternet.com.

OUR HISTORY

Our celebrations must include stories from our past. Sadly, we have been without an archivist for several years despite attempts to recruit one, so they do need some “tender loving care”. Can you help?

Perhaps this is something that your Club or Region would be willing to help with. If so, please contact Gina Coad in the SIGBI office at hq@sigbi.org. We need stories throughout our history to run a good publicity campaign.

So, the journey towards our Centenary celebrations starts. Let's make these celebrations memorable to mark the 100th anniversary of this wonderful organisation! We must start NOW to ensure our success.



Soroptimists striding out at the 1938 Soroptimist Convention in Atlantic City, USA

SI Sheffield celebrates 90 years of Soroptimism

SI Sheffield celebrated 90 years since women in Sheffield joined the Founder President, Mrs A E Longden, JP and formed a group called Sheffield Soroptimist Club.

The charities supported in 1928 were probably related to recovering from World War I. The ones since then are too numerous to list, but the most recent include the Snowdrop Project, Prior Bank Care Home, WaterAid, the three Women's Refuges in Sheffield, Cathedral Archer Project, Cavendish Centre, Whirlow Farm, 'Learn to earn' project with SI Karachi, and the Girl Guides.

Ninety years ago, the Sheffield Club met in various venues including The Rutland Hotel,

The Grand, Cockayne's, Walsh's, Cole Brothers and the Children's Hospital. The first annual dinner in 1928 was held at the Royal Victoria Hotel and cost 8s 6d. Today SI Sheffield meets for supper at Hallamshire Golf Club every



month and holds a business meeting at Tipton on the first Monday of the month.

Friendship Links were created years ago with Strasbourg (France), La Grande (Oregon, USA), Fremantle (Australia) and SI Rugby (UK). Today the Friendship Links include SI Barry, Wales; SI Strasbourg, France; SI Herning, Denmark; SI Masaka, Uganda; SI Karachi, Pakistan.

To celebrate the Birthday Year, SI Sheffield has held various events including the Charter Dinner at Baldwin's Omega, a cake eaten at the AGM, an afternoon tea at the Sheffield Botanical Gardens, a scone tea on a canal trip, production of a lovely commemorative paper weight and a 90th Birthday Book with the history of the Club.



A new Club is Chartered! SI Hyderabad, India

The chartering event of SI Hyderabad was successfully completed on 17th November 2018 at the CME Hall of Century Hospital, Hyderabad.

The Chief Guest for the occasion was Ms. Shikha Goel, an IPS officer (Indian Police Service) and she also champions several women-centric causes. She spoke on her various initiatives taken to ensure giving women an equal place in Society.

The event commenced with the signing of the Charter led by the Chartering officer on behalf of SIGBI Ms. Lata Krishnan, SI India President. The President's chain was presented to Deepika Chalasani the President of the new Club. Then the badging of the 34 members took place. This was all preceded by the symbolic lighting of the lamp.

Lata Krishnan addressed the guests and was followed by Deepika's inaugural address which also had a Power point presentation of projects undertaken by the new Club over the past year.

Short speeches by Rema Ramchandran, SI India Membership Officer, Shreelatha Narayan, SI India Immediate Past President, Anu Patil, SI India Organisational Development Officer and the two SIGBI Assistant Programme Directors Nisha Ghosh and Naina Shah followed.

The Members were delighted that Dorothy from SI Germany and Sue Waters from SI Kingston upon Thames, UK present. The Press were also present.

The event closed with a vote of thanks and the National Anthem followed by High Tea.



Meru Garden products!

SIGBI Members who like to support the Meru Gardens Project will be delighted to hear that a new range of Meru Herbs products will soon be available from JTS.

Nicola at JTS said, "We know that the Meru project is something close to your hearts, and ours, in the past and we believe that the time is right to start promoting Meru again! So we have a container on the sea on its way to us, due to arrive in January"

Products include: Tomato & Basil sauce; Tomato & Chilli sauce (reduced heat); •Hibiscus Jam; •Papaya & Lemon Jam

Meru Herbs is a woman-led organisation in rural Kenya, dedicated to Fair Trade principles who seek to empower woman, alleviate poverty, and improve their living standards.

All this ties in beautifully with the theme of Fairtrade Fortnight which is only a few months away now.

The theme of Fairtrade Fortnight 2019 is 'She Deserves a Living Income'. Many of the farmers in the developing world are underpaid and exploited, so they can't earn enough for the basic human rights that most of us take for granted such as housing, food and education.

They deserve more. The main way we can help and support these women farmers and bring them the benefits of fair trade, is to buy their produce.

So, you may like to support and promote the Meru range at events and stalls you may have planned for 2019.

Let's work together to make a difference!

Products will be available in January.

Pre-orders are possible by calling Nicola Taylor on 0141 255 0901 or emailing nicola@jts.co.uk

Capitation Fees 2019

Band 1

Bangladesh, Cameroon, Gambia, Malawi, Nepal, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe

Band 2

Anguilla, India, Jamaica, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

Band 3

Barbados, Grenada, Mauritius, South Africa, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Turks and Caicos

Band 4

Channel Islands, Isle of Man, Malta, Republic of Ireland, Seychelles, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom

BREAKDOWN OF FEES

	SIGBI CAP FEE	SI DUES	DEG/ERF/BEN FUND	TOTAL
BAND 1	12.00	5.00	0.00	17.00
BAND 2	13.50	5.00	0.00	18.50
BAND 3	17.00	5.00	0.00	22.00
BAND 4 (AACM)	40.00	5.00	0.00	45.00
BAND 4 (UK & Rol)	40.00	5.00	3.00	48.00

Note

The £3.00 donations for Band 4 (UK & Rol) are split as follows: £2.00 Benevolent Fund, 50p Diamond Education Grant and 50p Emergency Relief Fund.

Club News



SI Ballymoney Members met at the Riverside Park to take part in a litter lift. They were assisted by Declan Donnelly from the local council who provided litter pickers and plastic bags. Following some very pertinent advice from Declan the members set off in small groups and covered the length and breadth of the park picking up everything from plastic bags, plastic cups, empty bottles to crisp bags. An hour later they reassembled at the starting point with their bags of litter which were taken away to be disposed of by Mr Donnelly.



SI Barnstaple held their annual event for the start of the sixteen days of activism for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Members were joined by the Police, Councillors, representatives of local organisations and staff from North Devon Against Domestic Abuse. Poems were read and petals were scattered in the river in recognition of those who had survived domestic abuse and in memory of those who had not.



SI Brixham raised £600 for local charities by holding a Harvest Supper in a barn on a member's farm. A talk by a local Coastwatch volunteer about his RAF career was followed by a buffet prepared by members, featuring local produce.

18 DECEMBER 2018



SI Blackpool were invited to perform on stage at Blackpool Tower Ballroom in the annual Lancashire Singing Together event. The Club formed a sign language choir for hearing impaired. Performing in the iconic ballroom with several hundred children was a wonderful experience in terms of teamwork with their inspirational choirmaster, Paul Whittaker OBE and the ever-encouraging and supportive Blackpool Creative Signing Choir. They will continue the signing choir, resplendent in sashes and Club fleeces to pull in the publicity!



SI Burton upon Trent changed the flag at the SIGBI plot at the National Memorial Arboretum to celebrate the International Day of Peace at the Friendship Day on 22nd September 2018.



SI Carlisle recently featured on ITV Border News promoting Cumbria Constabulary's "Bobbie Buddy" Initiative.

The aim is to knit policemen teddies that will be carried in patrol cars and used as stress-busters to small children involved in police incidents, whether it be a road traffic accident or domestic dispute.

Members worked with Inspector Laura Boyd producing an easy pattern for "occasional" knitters and so far have completed around fifty "Bobbie Buddies"

The Border News piece generated a lot of enquiries from both Cumbria and Dumfries and Galloway and has encouraged large number of ladies both sides of the border to get knitting!



SI Chennai held its 16th event of their Inter School Talent Contest for the differently abled children, in August at Lady Andal Venkata Subba Rao School. The event was sponsored by ABS Marine Services and supported by the Inner wheel Club of Chennai, Verve. There were 245 entrants from schools like Sir Mutha School, Lady Andal House of Children, Saraswathi Kendra, Diksa, Alpha to Omega, and Ananya. The events included Oratory, Handwriting, Art, Music, Skits, Adzap. The excitement and enthusiasm of the children and the patience and dedication of the teachers and parents were moments to be cherished. The children excelled in their performance!



SI Cirencester Members were delighted to welcome the winners of their Annual Literacy Competition to the Royal Agricultural University. The children, from local primary schools, with their families were presented with their awards by the Mayor of Cirencester, Nigel Robbins and Debi Evans, a local author.

Debi entertained everyone with stories and pictures of Rolo the dog, hero of her delightful books.

This year the competition attracted 1100 entries. The excellent standards of handwriting, story telling and illustration made judging the awards a challenging task for local Soroptimists and the adjudicator In Yorkshire.



SI Coventry Members met at the Memorial Park and, armed with rubber gloves and grabber tools, spent 1.5 hours collecting litter along Kenilworth Road, filling seven sacks. Most of the litter consisted of glass and plastic bottles, crisp packets and sweet wrappers, and cigarette ends. More unusual items included a pair of trousers – the mind boggles! After making this contribution to the environment, they enjoyed lunch at a local pub.



SI Crieff, Dundee and Perth met on the only wet day for weeks to clear plastic and other rubbish off the Beach outside Dundee. 35 members and friends joined in making it a successful day of fun and friendship. They enjoyed a meal afterwards, which provided an opportunity to catch up and prepare for the next Soroptimist session.



SI Dundee Member, Dianne Stout, hosted three members of SI South Kolkata during their stay in Scotland. She invited members of the Club, along with Region President Prue Watson to meet the visitors. The five Soroptimists from Dundee enjoyed meeting with their Friendship Link Club members and sharing ideas and experiences.



SI Dungannon responded to Mid Ulster Womens' Aid appeal for household goods to give to women as they move out of the Refuge into homes in the local community. Members were very happy to help the ladies as they start the journey back to independent living.



SI Durham President Dot Hales and Members attended the North Durham Women's Conference in Stanley. The Conference marked 100 years of women in the UK getting the vote. Their stall at the conference enabled them to showcase their work and to speak to women from across the county about their Club and Federation. They met women who'd heard about Soroptimism, but also many who hadn't and were interested in the organisation.



SI East Grinstead was given the opportunity to take over the planting and maintenance of a raised flower bed, part of the Windmill Lane Community Garden project. Members planted the bed with blue, green and silver plants whilst taking the opportunity to raise awareness of Soroptimism. Lucy, the project co-ordinator tweeted, "Whilst most of the country is watching the football, I had the pleasure of welcoming our new planter owners East Grinstead Soroptimists! I am so excited to have these wonderful ladies join our community garden." The garden is located in a busy residential area and is an excellent advertising tool for both Soroptimist International and the East Grinstead Club.



SI Ennis made a presentation of 2000 euros to their local branch of the RNLI, following a very successful Jazz brunch fundraiser in the spring. In the picture from left to right are: Pamela Clancy, SI Ennis & District Soroptimist; Patricia Ryan, RNLI, Teresa Irwin, National President, SI Republic of Ireland, Joe Queally RNLI, Clare Colleran Molloy, Mayor of Ennis and member of SI Ennis & District and Mary Stafford, SI Ennis.



SI Falkirk Members welcomed their guest speaker, Barry Hardy from WaterAid, The Club's international charity for 2018-19. Barry has worked as a volunteer with them for the past 10 years and his water engineering background has been invaluable in helping him understand the challenges faced in Uganda to provide safe water and sanitation. Barry highlighted how clean water leads to good health, education and opportunity. One of the thought-provoking statistics from his mainly photos-based presentation was that 1 in 9 people (ie 844 million people) do not have clean water close to home.

SI Ipswich attended the Women's Voices, Women's Votes Festival on the Ipswich Waterfront inside the University Campus Suffolk building. President Pat Dowling had been on the organising committee for the festival and SI Ipswich sponsored part of the festival. They organised a stand in the Market Place which attracted a lot of attention aiming to raise awareness of Soroptimist International and attract new members. Eight women signed up to be members of Soroptimist International of Ipswich or Colchester Clubs. Although the stand was created by SI Ipswich it was set up and run on the day by two of our Colchester sisters and one of the Ipswich Club too. They raised £100 in a raffle for a beautiful quilt made by one of our ex-members. Great results achieved from co-operation across neighbouring branches of Soroptimist International.



SI Kenilworth Member Georgie Larsen Archer celebrated her 80th birthday and Club Members were delighted to join in with a toast to Georgie, who chose to have her birthday meal at their July dinner meeting. This was so typical of Georgie and demonstrates her dedication to Soroptimism and our Club. She is involved in all aspects of the Club and gives her all. She also started the Public Speaking contest and has organised it for 16 years.



SI King's Lynn held their annual Literary Lunch in November. The event was attended by around 60 people, and raised £850 for the Club's chosen charity for 2018-19, Home-Start Norfolk. Critically acclaimed author Chris Collett, the creator of the DI Tom Mariner series, was the speaker, telling the audience about her journey to becoming an author, from working with children who have autism spectrum disorder, to thinking about a story where the sole witness was on the autism spectrum, and how that eventually led to a series of detective novels. Chris grew up in Gorleston, Norfolk and is now based in Birmingham, where the novels are set.

Club News



SI Middlesbrough participated in a circular guided walk at the River Tees Barrage. By stepping out, members and friends benefited from fresh air, healthy fun and exercise, followed by a cup of tea in the Barrage Cafe.



SI Milford Haven held a Gardeners' Question Time at the St Ishmael's Garden Centre. Two Club Members (Heather Hippen and Geraldine Morgan - both very knowledgeable gardeners) were on the panel along with Simon Joules the owner of the garden centre. The large audience posed many questions that the panel answered, ranging from what could be planted under a dry hedge to identifying a specimen brought along to the event. The proceeds from the evening will be divided between the Meru garden Project and other charities.



SI Nottingham members were pleased and proud to organise a Charity Concert, which packed St Marys of Nottingham to the rafters! The atmosphere was amazing. As William Ruff, music critic of the Nottingham Post said, as well as complimenting the performers, "It wasn't 'just' the music that inspired "It's hard to imagine any other two-hour concert offering such a concentration of family talent to give so much to so many". The concert raised £7000 for two Soroptimist Charities: We R Here, a local charity helping families and children at a time of trauma and Street Child UK helping girls living on the streets in, among other countries, Sierra Leone to either work or receive education.

20 DECEMBER 2018



SI Oxford and District celebrated its 60th anniversary with a dinner at St John's College, Oxford. Soroptimists and guests included members from Friendship Link, SI Bonn. Visitors included Federation President Sue Biggs and Regional President Margaret Badley. An amazing celebration cake was made by Jackie Paling, a member of SI Slough, Windsor and Maidenhead. Jackie was especially pleased to provide the cake, as she had made the cake for SI Oxford and District's 50th anniversary.



SI Plymouth held another successful celebration of International Literacy Day when hundreds of books and bookmarks handed out to passers-by in Plymouth city centre on a sunny September Saturday. A relay team of Plymouth Soroptimists manned the stand and others encouraged shoppers to stop and select a free book. Children were particularly excited to pick a book and went off proudly clutching their choice. One of the organisers, Lorraine Gillings said, "Giving books away is a great way to encourage children and adults to read more. "Reading is not only an essential life skill it can also give hours of pleasure. Even though lots of people now use e-readers, many still love to hold a real book."



SI Preston Members filled 30 gift bags for the homeless and delivered them to the local Salvation Army to give out at Christmas. Gifts inside included toiletries, underwear, towels and of course, chocolate. SI Preston has given this service for several years, spending a social meeting packing the bags and enjoying festive fare. The Salvation Army are always delighted and grateful for the gifts which help make life a little easier for some desolate people.



SI San Fernando held a Luncheon on September 30th with the theme "Las Vegas". Guests were treated to a sumptuous lunch and wide variety of entertainment and the decorations in fuchsia pink reflected the theme, with cards, dice and a spinning wheel. Guests won many prizes, and a part of the proceeds will go to Breast Cancer. President Bebe Ajodha welcomed the guests and shared information about Soroptimists and the projects undertaken by the Club.



SI Selby Members are visiting their Friendship Link Club in Dnipro, Ukraine, taking gifts for the children in an orphanage which the SI Club in Ukraine supports and who suffer from physical and mental disabilities. SI Selby liaised with SI Dnipro to find out what the children needed. This included toys and games, which would stimulate the children, and 65 toothbrushes. Hazel Calvert, Joint President, said, "Members of SI Selby were very generous and we have collected toothbrushes for every child plus a range of toys and games, which will benefit them all. We look forward to hearing what the children thought about our donations and how they are starting to use them."



SI Sevenoaks responded to a call for help in tidying up the town garden on the Vine in readiness for judging. The Club members gave their time completing gardening tasks further enhancing the colourful garden. One highlight is the Ribbon of Poppies in commemoration of WW1. The Mayor of Sevenoaks, Roddy Hogarth visited the Vine to thank the volunteers saying, "The Sevenoaks entry was given a huge boost by Sevenoaks Soroptimists. It was a pleasure to see them working alongside other volunteers. I am very grateful for their support."



SI Slough Windsor and Maidenhead visited Nepal and spent a most enjoyable afternoon with Members of SI Kathmandu Club, hearing about projects and the Club's future aspirations. SW&M members hand delivered a donation of £100 to SI Kathmandu to help them continue with their Programme Action work before helping Kathmandu member Goma (front, 2nd from left) celebrate her birthday in true British style with a rendition of "Happy Birthday".



SI South Lancashire's annual bowls competition culminated in an exciting finals day. This year's team trophy went to SI Leigh & District. The winner of the Tricia Fahey Cup (for an individual bowler) was Yvonne Atkinson (SI Crosby).



SI St Albans & District won the SME Hertfordshire Business Award in the "Not for Profit Business of the Year" category. The Club's Membership Officer and local business woman Amanda Brown (pictured here) proudly represented the Club at the Awards dinner.



SI Stockton on Tees presented 10 New Start bags for victims of trafficking to Cleveland Police with a further 20 to follow, helped by funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner. President Margaret Wall and representatives of the Club met PCC Barry Coppinger to promote a new campaign to help stop sexual exploitation and were thanked for working in partnership with the police to support the fight against trafficking and modern slavery.

SI Swansea celebrates 85 years of Soroptimism!



President Angela Ball hosted the 85th Celebration Lunch at Sketty Hall of Swansea Soroptimists on Sunday October 7th. The Club received its Charter from Bath Soroptimist Club in 1933, was the first Soroptimist Club in Wales and Cllr. Mrs H D Williams was their first President. SIGBI's Vice President Isobel Smith joined guests Deputy Lord Mayor Peter Black, Deputy Lady Mayoress Angela Black and Helen Lewis, a former Soroptimist, who has organised the High Scorers Concert for the ABRSM awards for nearly 30 years. The event was ably led by Master of Ceremonies, Norma Glass MBE, and entertainment was from young Harpist Cesia Rees and guests enjoyed a splendidly special cake which had been made by a new member, Beth Hale.



SI Swindon Members completed a three month project observing Domestic Abuse cases in Swindon and Chippenham Courts, and subsequently received a personal letters from Wiltshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Angus Macpherson.

Aided by Members of the Cheltenham and Cirencester Soroptimists, they attended both Courts every week to fill out a PCC provided questionnaire on all Domestic Abuse cases. 115 reports were completed. These have been passed to the office of the Wiltshire PCC and will be closely analysed and a report made to be passed to the CPS and the Courts in order to improve victim and witness support and treatment in the court process.



SI West Lothian held their annual thrift shop in Bathgate in July and raised £1200. They have been running this event for one week each year over the past ten years. During this time they have raised approximately £13000 and they donate the money to local charities at Christmas.



SI South West and Channel Islands Regional President Daphne Dowsing welcomed the Past Soroptimist International President, Ann Garvie, to their Regional Meeting where Ann was a guest speaker. After the meeting guests and members enjoyed a West Country cream tea..



SI Worcester celebrated their 80th Anniversary over a September weekend. They were joined by SI President Mariet, SIGBI President Susan and Midland Arden Regional President Jan and Soroptimists from Friendship Link Clubs in The Netherlands, Romania and Germany with Soroptimists from around the UK. The programme included a tour of Tudor House Museum and supper on the Friday. On Saturday there was a workshop for the Soroptimists at Worcestershire County Cricket Club with a walking tour of Worcester for non-Soroptimists and a visit to the Guildhall and Mayor's Parlour with tea. On Saturday evening there was a Gala Dinner at the WCCC attended by 91 people including the Mayor of Worcester and his wife and our partners, Rotary of Malvern and FOAG. On Sunday morning there was a final farewell at Worcester Royal Porcelain Café.

Obituaries

Sylvia Grimwood, SI Newbury, died in December, 2017 aged 81. Sylvia became a Member in 1986 and was twice President, an Hon. Secretary, Programme Convenor and Membership Convenor for many years. She was a devoted and passionate Soroptimist.

Sylvia Firth, SI Anglesey, died on 10th April 2018 aged 84. Despite health issues, which she bore with great stoicism, Sylvia was completely immersed in the aims and ideals of the Soroptimist movement.

Diana Clark, SI Cocker mouth and formerly **SI Scarborough**, died on 20th April 2018 aged 73, surrounded by her Soroptimist sisters after being diagnosed with cancer in January 2018.

She had served as President in 2005-6 after joining Cocker mouth in 2002 and was Treasurer from 2010 until recently. She had also served as President more than once at her former Club where she was a stalwart member for 31 years.

Sheila Wathan, SI Anglesey, died on 14th May 2018 aged 88. Sheila, a loyal and active member for 23 years, was Club Membership Officer for many years, bringing many new Members to the Club, and she continued to keep in touch with Members who could not attend due to ill health.

Theresa O' Doherty, SI North Kildare, died on 16th May 2018. Theresa was a committed Soroptimist and an active member in SI Naas/ Newbridge, holding most officer roles before transferring to SI North Kildare in 2015. She was National President and as National Association Membership and Development Officer Theresa founded three Clubs; SI North Kildare, SI Ballinasloe and SI Mullingar. In the early nineties, Theresa initiated the hospice movement within her Soroptimist Club area of Kildare/West Wicklow and spearheaded the fundraising campaign which raised over 3 million euros.

Wendy Kay Dempster, SI Cocker mouth died on 31st May 2018, aged 78, after being diagnosed with a brain tumour in January. She was the Club's Founder President from 1981-83 and served as President in 2010-11. An outstanding Communications Officer, a proactive Friendship Links Officer, she organised many of the Club's Charter Events. An enthusiastic member for 37 years and a keen promoter of many Programme Action projects, she will be greatly missed.

Patricia (Pat) Mary Evans, SI Haverfordwest, died on 3rd June, aged 80. She became a Member in 1980. She was President in 1990-91 and joint President in 2008-9. Pat took an active role in the Club until her health failed.

Shelagh Ann Sandle, SI Stratford-upon-Avon, died on 6th August, aged 77. Shelagh was Club President 2005-6.

Barbara C. Mitchener, Honorary Member SI Sevenoaks, died in Threshfield, Yorkshire on 26th August 2018 aged 92. She transferred to Sevenoaks from SI Beckenham in 1976 when she was appointed Head of Tonbridge Grammar School for Girls. She was Club President 1981-82 and supported Save the Children & Stamp Out Polio. She was always a very supportive member and an enthusiastic Soroptimist.

Lilian Whyte, SI Southport died on 1st September 2018. Lilian joined in 1972 as a Superintendent Radiographer and was a Past President.

SIGBI Memorial Fund

The Memorial Fund was set up to facilitate new Soroptimists attending their first SIGBI Conference outside their country of residence and increase their knowledge of Soroptimism, which they can then share with others.

We would like to thank the following Clubs for their donations to the fund in memory of their late Members, over the last 18 months:

SI Dundee SI Wolverhampton SI Widnes

If you would like to make a donation please contact
SIGBI HQ at hq@sigbi.co.org

Helen Pfeiffer, SI Crosby, died on 11th September 2018 after celebrating her 65th birthday in July. Her courage in facing her illness was remarkable. A Soroptimist from 2007, she served the Club as Programme Action Officer and Vice President, taking an active role in Club activities. Helen will be remembered for her remarkable sense for fun, laughter and loyalty.

June Williams, SI Southport, suddenly died on 19th September 2018 aged 79. June joined on 1st April 2016 and really enjoyed being a member and supported everything we did.

Marjory Cockburn, SI Hallamshire, died peacefully in her sleep on 22nd September 2018. A State Registered Nurse, Marjory spent the early part of her career working as a missionary in Africa. Returning to England, she became Matron at St. Luke's Hospice, Sheffield, where she served for many years, being awarded the MBE for services to nursing and the Hospice Movement.

Barbara C. Mitchener, Honorary Member SI Sevenoaks, died in Threshfield, Yorkshire on 26th August 2018 in her 93rd year. She transferred to Sevenoaks from SI Beckenham in 1976 when she was appointed Head of Tonbridge Grammar School for girls. She was Club President 1981-82 and chose to support in particular Save the Children and Stamp Out Polio. A very supportive Member and enthusiastic about Soroptimist projects and ideals.

Norma Howie, SI Solihull, died after a long illness on Tuesday 28th August. Norma was a much loved and active member for many years, an essential part of the team running the Club's large annual community event in Solihull. She also visited or contacted members who were in poor health. Norma is sadly missed by all her many friends, and was a true Soroptimist.

Doris Elsie Wade, SI Norwich, died on 17th September, aged 94.

Valerie Mullins, SI Doncaster, died on 19th September 2018. Aged 80. A loyal and dedicated member for over 25 years, she was twice Club President and Secretary and Treasurer, Yorkshire Regional President 1996/7 and gave 10 years service as Trustee and Chairman of SIGBI Benevolent Fund.

Sheridan Brimacombe, SI Plymouth's longest serving Member, died in September 2018 after an 18 month battle against cancer. After joining the Plymouth Club in 1978, and recruiting her sister Lesley Thomas, Sheridan was a very active, dedicated Soroptimist, serving in many capacities including President, SI Plymouth in 1990, and Regional Extension and Membership Officer. She attended many Federation and International

Conferences. Sheridan also served for three years on the Board of the Soroptimist Residential Club in London, "No. 63" and she will be remembered as a founder of the Soroptimist 2000 Club, which has so far raised £127,000 towards the upkeep of the Residential Club, still run by SI Plymouth.

Beth Tate, SI Nottingham died on 4th October after a short illness. Beth was 91 and was a Member for 47 years. Vice President 1977-8 and President 1978-9. Beth was Friendship Link Coordinator and was the local United Nations Association representative for many years. She was an active member of the Club until shortly before her death, and much missed.

Celeste Holtam, SI Newcastle, died on 6th October 2018 aged 91. A Founder Member of the Club, she served in many ways, not least being President twice and Friendship Link liaison with Gustine Newman in America for many years. Celeste was a true Soroptimist, very supportive of all members and she will be very much missed.

Anne Wilson, SI Devizes, recently died. A Member since the early seventies, she held various offices including President. Sadly, the Devizes Club closed in 1999 and she transferred to SI Swindon where she spent 12 happy years with us supporting our programme work in many ways and being a valued member. Ann was a midwife and delivered 870 babies! She was unable to renew her membership due to health issues, but Members kept in touch for many years and they have missed her.

Olga Lodge, SI The Fylde, died peacefully in October having been a Soroptimist of longstanding. Formerly a member of SI Preston, Olga, together with her friend Betty McKerron, had travelled the world visiting Soroptimist Clubs wherever she went and making lifelong friends. Passionate about Programme Action, she loved the projects that the Clubs undertook.

Deirdre Clark, SI Richmond & Dales, died on 15th October, aged 80. Deirdre was a loyal and long standing member. She founded and tended the Soroptimist Garden of Fragrance in Richmond for many years.

Christine Addison, SI Preston, died on 10th July 2018, aged 89. Christine joined the Club in 1977 and was an active and valued member and held a number of offices including Club President.

Iris Shaw, SI Windermere died in November 2018 at the age of 85. She was an active Member for 22 years, a Past President and could always be relied upon to cheerfully volunteer for various roles at our Club's fundraising events.

TO SUBMIT AN OBITUARY

Please send obituaries to Soroptimist@written-image.com, putting OBITUARY in the subject box. It should be written following the above format, including ONLY the Member's name, Club(s), age, time as a Soroptimist and offices held. Please do not send full descriptive obituaries. There is no fee. Longer obituaries may be submitted for the website. Please send to hq@sigbi.org

SIGBI Shopping

Soroptimist booklet

3 booklets per pack
@ £1.00 a pack plus P&P.



What sort of woman is a Soroptimist?

Pack of 50 @ £6.00 per pack plus P&P.



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size 36mm x
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butterfly fastening
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Past President's Badge

£2.50 plus P&P.

NEW!!! Thermal mug

Made of BPA-free plastic and holding 30cl, this reusable coffee mug keeps your coffee warm for longer and the mug (not the lid) is dishwasher safe. Many coffee outlets now offer a discount for using your own mug!
£4.80 plus P&P



TO ORDER

The full list of retail items is available from Joanne or via the Members' area of www.sigbi.org/Members under "SIGBI Shop". There is an order form for items from SIGBI and from Corporate Insignia on the website. All items exclusive of postage and packing. Do not send money with your order.

SIGBI Ltd sends all orders by the most economical postage, cost is dependent on the weight and size of the goods. An invoice plus post and packing will be sent with your order. Contact: Joanne Voller, Sales Officer, Soroptimist International Great Britain and Ireland (SIGBI) Ltd., 2nd Floor, Beckwith House, Wellington Road North, Stockport, SK4 1AF. T: 0161 480 7686 F: 0161 477 6152 E: hq@sigbi.org. To pay by credit card, provide Card Number, Expiry Date and Security Code (3 digit number on reverse of card) with your order.

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2000 Club

Members from these Clubs were the lucky winners:

July 2018

SI Skipton & Craven	£100	SI Weston-super-Mare	£50
SI Tynemouth	£100	SI Jersey	£25
SI Guernsey	£50	SI Beverley	£25

August 2018

SI Ramsbottom	£50	SI Hallamshire	£100
SI Kenilworth	£25	SI Croydon	£100
SI St Austell	£25	SI Kettering	£50

September 2018

SI Cirencester	£100	SI Cheltenham	£50
SI Dunfermline	£50	SI Bridgend	£25
SI Bournemouth	£50	SI Guernsey	£25

October 2018

SI Bristol	£25	SI Bath	£100
SI Bristol	£25	SI Bristol	£100
SI Oxford	£50	SI Wigan	£50

November 2018

SI Jersey	£100	SI Plymouth	£25
SI Heswall	£100	SI Barnstaple	£25
SI Plymouth	£50		

About the 2000 Club

The 2000 Club was set up in 2000 to raise funds for the upkeep of Number 63, our Club in London. Anyone can join, the cost is £1 per week. Six winners are chosen each month by SI Plymouth. The first two win £100, the next two win £50 and the remaining two win £25. Twice a year in the big draw, the first prize is £1,000, the two second prizes are £500 and the last two win £250. A membership application form is on the Number 63 website: www.number63.co.uk/

In the mail

20.07.18 Clubs/Regions/NA/Networks

1. Membership Month Competitions
2. SALE – Meru Badges Reduced
3. Soroptimists win NAWO Elder Awards
4. Grant of Friendship – New Zealand
5. SI Board/Club Charter September 2018
6. Federation Vacancy – SIGBI Programme Director

03.08.18 Clubs/Regions/NA/Networks

1. Breaking News ... SIGBI Charitable Status
2. Shortlisted Projects for Federation Project 2019-2022
3. Call for Nominations – APD Economic Empowerment
4. Membership Matters August 2018
5. Club Photo of the Month July 2018
6. Liverpool Conference Notices
7. SI General Meeting Invitation (SI Board)
8. Award-Winning Clubs/Members
9. UNESCO Project Planning Guidance

10.08.18 – Clubs/Regions/NA/Networks

1. Charitable Status – Letter, SIGBI President

17.08.18 – Clubs/Regions/NA/Networks

1. Get ready to "Orange the World" for the 16 Days of Activism
2. Liverpool Conference Pre-Orders
3. SIGBI's Charitable Status – Further Update
4. SIGBI APD – Economic Empowerment
5. SI Treasurer
6. General Meeting Voting Accreditation

07.09.18 – Clubs/Regions/NA/Networks

1. General Meeting Documentation
2. Liverpool Conference – last chance to register and place pre-orders
3. Club Photo of the Month August 2018
4. SIGBI and SI Vacancy Closing Dates
5. SIGBI Project 2019-2022 Factsheets

14.09.18 – Clubs/Regions/NA/Networks

1. Programme Resolutions/SIGBI Project 2019-2022 Session

21.09.18 – Clubs/Regions/NA/Networks

1. Join the conversation – have your say
2. Liverpool Conference – register and place pre-orders before 30 September
3. Raffle at Conference
4. Friendship Link Newsletter
5. CSW63

Resolution 1 – Additional Information

7. Programme Resolutions/SIGBI Project 2019-2022 Session
8. Club Ballot 11 SIGBI Programme Director

05.10.18 – Clubs/Regions/NA/Networks

1. Club Photo of the Month – September
2. Liverpool Conference Delegate Check-In
3. The Face of Suffrage – People's Picture
4. Sustainable Development Awards
5. No 63 AGM – 19 January 2019
6. Support Mary's Meals Porridge-Day
7. Charter Invitation – SI Sofia – St. Ivan Rilski, Bulgaria – 3 November 2018
8. Friendship Link Joint Projects

19.10.2018 – Clubs/Region/NA/Networks

1. Countdown to Liverpool 2018 Conference
2. SIGBI Shop
3. Membership Matters – October 2018
4. CSW 63 – 11-22 March 2019, New York
5. SI South West Pacific President's Special Appeal for Indonesia
6. Easyfundraising.org.uk. Register Your Club
7. Friendship Link Joint Projects

29.10.18 – Clubs/Regions/NA/Networks

1. SI Board Director 2019-2020

02.11.18 – Clubs/Regions/NA/Networks

1. Post Liverpool 2018 Conference
2. CSW 63 – 11-22 March 2019, New York
3. SI Board Director 2019-2020
4. SIGBI's donation for Indonesia
5. Silk Suffrage Scarfs for sale
6. Easyfundraising.org.uk – Register Your Club
7. Club Mailings 2018-2019
8. SIGBI Bank Accounts

85th SIGBI Federation Conference Bournemouth International Centre 24th – 26th October 2019



President Sue and the Conference Committee look forward to welcoming you to Bournemouth for SIGBI's 85th Federation Conference in October 2019.

The theme for 2018-2019 is "Think on it" and the challenge for the year is to improve our own mental health and to raise awareness of the wellbeing and mental health of the women and girls we help.

The Bournemouth Conference speakers will exemplify this theme through their own experiences of mental health issues or through their work in supporting the wellbeing of others.

Bournemouth is a fantastic seaside resort on the southern coast of England. It is known for having seven miles of sandy beaches, Victorian

architecture and a buzzing nightlife. The resort is home to Bournemouth Pier and the 2-mile long Bournemouth Gardens and has a generous provision of hotels, restaurants, bars and shopping. Bournemouth is easy to reach and navigate and there's a lot to do in the area if you wish to extend your visit.

Full details of the accommodation available and how to book can be found at www.bebes.org.uk/sigbi19/

As the programme for conference develops full details will be posted on the website at sigbi.org/bournemouth2019/ so please watch for updates.

Think on it: Join the campaign

Sue Williams
SIGBI President 2018-2019 writes:

Good mental health is fundamental to thriving in life. It is the essence of who we are and how we experience the world. Yet, compared to physical health, so little is commonly known about mental ill health and how to prevent it. That must change.

This year, I am introducing the theme "Think on it" which will provide a focus on mental health for women and girls throughout my 2018/2019 Presidency.

Do you know that more women have post-traumatic stress disorder than men? This is mainly because of the adverse life experiences they have had such as domestic violence and female genital mutilation.

Do you know that more women than men have depression? 15 per cent of women have post-natal depression.

2 out of 3 people with dementia are women. 1 in 12 girls self-harm. Indeed, 29 per cent of women compared with 17 per cent of men have mental health issues.

The theme 'Think on it' is something we can all work on together, it's not another project but an extension of what we already do. Something we can consider when we are carrying out our existing project work.

Firstly, I challenge every Club to hold one extra event that promotes the wellbeing of every Member. It could be an afternoon tea, a monthly brunch, an introduction to yoga or tai chi. Let your imaginations run riot as we need to look after ourselves, have fun together and reignite our passion for our mission to support women and children.

Secondly, whilst not expecting every member to become an expert on mental health, Clubs are challenged to hold one event to raise awareness of the issue of mental health of women and girls associated with the projects we all support.

We can all raise awareness of mental health issues in our local area by hosting a speaker session, holding an open evening or conference and exploring the issues of mental health.

To help Clubs in this we have developed a toolkit which is available in the Members' Area under 'clubs/think-on-it'.



The toolkit includes:

- Facts
- Awareness raising images
- Image headers for social media
- Events guides
- Access to free materials
- Infographics

We will also be introducing two additional days to the special day calendar.

These will be Mental Health Awareness Week, 13-19th May 2019 and World Mental Health Day, 10th October 2019.

Look out for more information on these days next year.

The hashtag for the campaign is **#SoroptimistsThinkOnIt**.

Please get involved and share details of your events with us so that we can use them on the website and on our social media pages.