

Soroptimist International Bournemouth October 2022

## The Work of the Planet Group

Women inspiring action,  
transforming lives

Hello, my name is Gail Thomas and I am the lead from the Planet Group at Soroptimist International Bournemouth. It is my pleasure to share with you some of the projects we have been involved with over the past number of years.



## THE GLOBAL GOALS For Sustainable Development




The overall purpose of the Planet Programme Action Group is to support by service, awareness raising, fundraising and any other means as may be thought fit, the environmental projects (largely linked to the Global Goals for Sustainable Development, numbers 6, 12, 13, 14,15) instigated or supported by SIB, SI and SIGBI.



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Important to say that, regarding our overall purpose, we align to the Global Goals for Sustainable Development. You can see we have selected five goals that we think best align with the work we have been involved with (6- Clean Water and Sanitation, 12- Responsible Consumption and Production, 13- Climate Action, 14- Life below Water, 15- Life on Land).



Since the inception of the Planet Group, we have engaged in diverse activities to meet those aims.

We are very aware of the decline of bees and have undertaken:

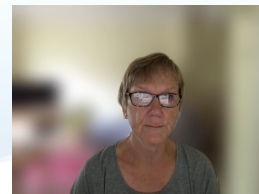
- a project with schools and Brownies to raise awareness
- a workshop for members to make bee baths
- a visit to learn about bee keeping
- the development of evidence-based guidelines for bee friendly gardens for members
- the signing of petitions to reduce the use of neonicotinoids



This is an example of the kind of projects that we have been involved with to give you a flavour. Bees are in decline, we know that; it is very important that we halt this decline, and the club has been involved for the past number of years in a variety of activities to help halt this decline. The initiatives are there for you to see but it is important to say that alongside every project, we sign petitions, write to MPs and become involved in appropriate political activity to ensure we have much wider impact than just in our club.

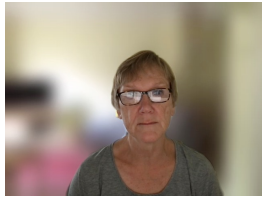


We have supported our local Wildlife Trust by volunteering on Brownsea Island and by donating to fund dormouse tunnels and gorse clearing. We have signed petitions to ban single use BBQs to reduce wildfires on DWT land.



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We have been involved with our local Wildlife Trust for the past number of years. Personally, I have been a volunteer with DWT over the past 5 years once a week doing conservation work on Brownsea Island, a gorgeous place in Poole Harbour where Lord Baden Powell started the first boy scout camp more than 100 years ago. The club has provided financial support by funding initiatives like dormouse tunnels and gorse clearing. We have signed petitions to encourage the ban on disposable barbecues as they are a serious cause of wildfire in our region.



As part of both the SI Centenary and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, we sourced and paid for 45 trees to be planted at two schools in spring 2022. This was supported by HM Lord-Lieutenant of Dorset, the Chairman of BCP Council and the Mayors of Bournemouth and Poole. We had plaques placed at both sites to highlight the Soroptimist contribution.

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Something we did this past year was engage with two schools in our town (Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole) to plant trees to mark both the Soroptimist International Centenary and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the Queen's Green Canopy project. This photograph was taken at Poole High School where students planted 30 trees that SIB bought from the Woodland Trust. The other school was St Peter's Catholic Primary School in Bournemouth; similarly, the pupils did the planting and were thoroughly engaged in the whole project. We had wonderful commemorative events at both schools with HM Lord-Lieutenant of Dorset, the chairman of BCP Council and the mayors of the relevant town. We involved our colleagues from SI Poole at this

event at Poole High School.





We have been running a project to reduce single use plastic since 2020. Members have changed behaviour finding alternatives to SUP, significantly increased recycling activity, participated in beach cleans and made ecobricks. Over the summer of 2022 we have run a competitive project in a primary school to encourage pupils to identify creative ideas and capture on a poster. Results awaited!

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Something we have been doing for the past two years is working to reduce single use plastic. We have produced guidelines, done presentations and been involved in monitoring the club's recycling activity (and found that this scrutiny brought about significant increase in the amount and range of recycling). We have participated in beach cleans, made ecobricks and been very involved with Green Peace. They did a presentation to the club and we were involved in their Big Plastic Count in May of this year and have signed a number of their petitions. Possibly the most exciting for me, we have started to engage with one primary school over this summer where we have run a competitive project to encourage them to come up with creative ideas about how to reduce or

replace single use plastic. Their ideas were recorded either in a diary or on a poster and we are awaiting the outcomes. I am pleased to say that we have identified another school who is interested and will be starting a project with their pupils in October and we have 3 other possible schools that we hope will take this forward. Reducing single use plastic, especially raising awareness in young people, is critical for the planet. There are 600 pupils at Hill View where we have run the first project; if we can reach that number of young people and their families, we may be able to make a significant difference in the future, much more than just involving the 20 of us in SIB.

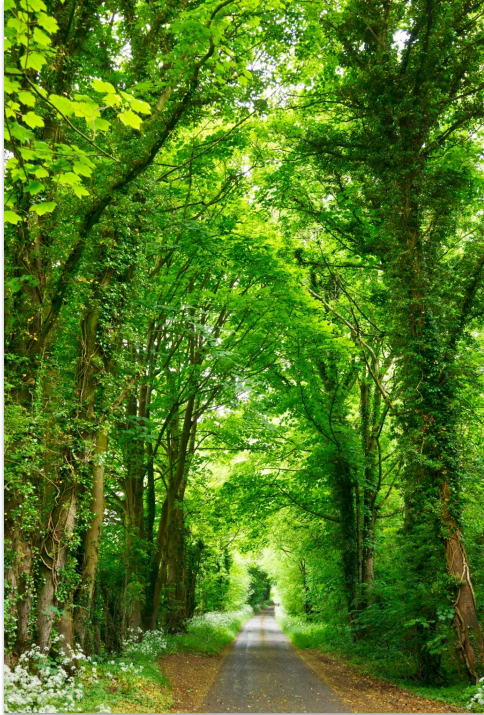




Having had an inspirational talk about the negative impact of fast fashion, our next project will be in supporting members to exchange and / or repurpose clothes in order to change consumer practice. Many have signed up to 'no new clothes for 12 months' - quite an achievement!

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The last initiative to talk about relates to an inspirational talk we had last year from a young fashion student, highlighting the negative impact of fast fashion on the world's resources. As a result, we ran a project to get members to sign up to 'buying no new clothes' in order to consider their consumer practice and what they really need. Pleasingly a number of SIB members have actually gone for 12 months without buying anything other than underwear and some are continuing. Next we are thinking about hosting an event where people can exchange clothes that they own that are still in good repair but that they no longer wear. Also our latest idea is to produce guidelines on how to easily repurpose and refashion clothes to increase their longevity.



The Planet Group at SIB is always looking for good ideas and we are enjoying engaging our colleagues in ways to support the environment.

We hope this presentation has given your club some food for thought.

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In summary, we are always trying to come up with new ideas in the Planet Group at SIB to help the environment and we enjoy engaging colleagues in taking these forward. We hope this presentation has given your club some food for thought and new ideas. Hopefully you will enjoy conference and that I will meet some of you over the next few days. Thank you for listening.