

Annual Programme Action Review 2019-2020

Introduction

SI Canterbury has worked on a variety of projects throughout the year, and was looking forward to carrying out new initiatives when the lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic was put in place. However a review of the last year shows that club members worked with energy and commitment to improve the lives of women and girls locally, nationally and internationally. Full details of the club's programme action can be found on the Programme Action Reports that were issued in May, July, September and November 2019, and January and March 2020. In addition I produced a discussion paper in February 2020, which led to fruitful discussions in the following club meeting. Club members are encouraged to look on the Sigbi website for the Programme Action database which sets out significant projects that the club has undertaken – there are 20 entries from Canterbury club on the database for the last 12 months.

Projects

- 1) Domestic Abuse – the Women's Refuge. Monthly coffee mornings and craft sessions took place at the Canterbury women's refuge until July 2019, but in August they had to be suspended due to circumstances outside the control of the club. Apart from providing Christmas gifts, there has not been any other work carried out in the refuge, although inquiries will be made after the lockdown ends, to explore whether the club can support women in the Dover refuge.
- 2) Domestic Abuse – the Rising Sun. Club members are committed to supporting the domestic abuse service in Canterbury. Nancy has been active in supporting the One Stop Café for as long as she was able to do so, and Maggie was ready to start at the One Stop Shop, but the lockdown prevented that happening straightaway. The club has agreed to assist Rising Sun in their office with administrative support once the office has opened up again.
- 3) The Silent March was a great success, and a highlight of the year, both in raising awareness of the issue of gender-based abuse, and the opportunity to act in unity with other organisations. The March took place on Saturday 7th December when over 100 club members and supporters walked through Canterbury as part of the UN 16 days of Activism against Gender Based Violence.
- 4) Modern Day Slavery & Trafficking. Lorry stickers were printed and distributed through John Shirley Ltd, the freight forwarding company, to haulage companies in Europe. After a launch with a press release, stickers were also distributed via the freight drivers' café in Dover and to delegates at the HTF Advisory Forum in London. Fund raising and awareness raising events included the showing of the DVD 'Even When I Fall', and the Charity Carpark event in October 2019, when a total of £110 was raised.
- 5) Lobbying. Club members continued to lobby and sign petitions throughout the year. The partnership with the Canterbury branch of Amnesty International continued, and club members regularly signed letters in support of Amnesty campaigns, together with attendance at the Christmas card signing event in December 2019.
- 6) Environment/sustainability. A new team was set up to focus on these issues. The club is represented on the Canterbury SDG forum and the Canterbury Climate Action Group. Beach cleans are planned after the lockdown is lifted, following a successful beach clean at Seasalter for the Day of Action in July 2019.

Federation Project

The Meru Project came to an end in 2019, having reached its target. SI Canterbury raised almost £14000 towards the project over its duration.

Empowering Women in Nepal: We are at the beginning of this project and the club started fundraising in December 2019 with a Curry Night, when £130 was raised. The same event also raised another £130 for the Canterbury Foodbank.

We continue to support other organisations.

Canterbury Foodbank is regularly supported by the club, both in regular financial donations (£50 per month) and club members who volunteer at distribution cafes, soup kitchen and in the warehouse.

A number of Club members are active in supporting Catching Lives with service at the centre kitchen and with art projects.

The club supports the Medaille Trust and made donations of women's clothing and towels/bedlinen for the safe house. A number of club members also support Save the Children, Macmillan Cancer and Target Ovarian Cancer with attendance at their events.

The club was involved with Canterbury City Council Community Safety Team on an awareness raising event during Adult Safeguarding Week in October.

This is a challenging time for the club, as we are so limited in what we can do to support the projects that we are committed to, but club members are continually looking to find innovative ways of working, Funding has been agreed for toilet and tap twinning (£60 for each) , together with financial support for 'Lend with Care'. Once the lockdown is lifted, club members have many ideas for fundraising, awareness raising and service , and we all look forward to the day when these can be put into effect.

On a personal note, this was my first year as Programme Action Officer and I would like to thank everyone for their unfailing support and encouragement.

Jan Tebbett

Programme Action Officer

April 2020.

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