



Soroptimist International
Great Britain & Ireland
Friendship Link Newsletter

Issue 40

May 2012

Dear Members,

Welcome to another interesting and informative newsletter .You all continue to amaze me with the variety of ways you work and develop links with your friendship links.

The Jubilee weekend will soon be upon us as will the Olympics. Has this given you further ideas of projects you could do together to celebrate these wonderful occasions.

A reminder that 3rd October is the International Friendship Day a fantastic opportunity to celebrate with your links.

Remember to continue to send me a short article and pictures.

The Easy Stage Guide to Friendship links was circulated in January and is now on the website. I would be interested to know if you have found it useful.

Finally if you have not completed your friendship link registration form please could you do it straightaway and email it to me in order to keep our records up to date.

Many thanks

In friendship

Pat

Friendship Links since January 2012

2012				
January	25	Bridgend, Wales	Moreton North Inc.	SI/SWP
	30	Runcorn,Frodsham & District	Chennai Downtown	SI/GBI
February	14	Bangalore	Widnes	SI/GBI
	18	Ramsbottom	Durban	SI/GBI
	21	Central Birmingham	Biella, Italy	SI/E
March	5	Middlesborough	Magdeburg	SI/E
	5	Rossendale	Kokkola Finland	SI/E
	11	Northampton & District	Stourbridge	SI/GBI
April	3	Colombo	Elmbridge	SI/GBI

New Clubs

The most recent club to be chartered in our Federation is SI Arusha, Tanzania, with a charter date of 20th March 2012. Could you be interested in forming a friendship link?



Requests for Friendship Links

Please may I ask that you forward all requests for Friendship Links to myself and not Soroptimist News. All requests will then be posted on the Friendship Link section of the members part of the SIGBI website for six months or until a link has been established. The requests will also be included in the next edition of Friendship Link News.

SI Garstang

Would like a friendship link with a club in Northumberland or the Scottish Borders.
If you would like to form a link please contact Anne Marie Briggs
annemariebriggs@talktalk.net. Tel 01995 604653

SI Port Louis

Are looking for a link with a club which could support their project of running a pre-primary school in the poor area of Cité Flamboyant, Richelieu in Mauritius. SI Port Louis launched this project last year and managed to find all the resources to build the school, which opened in January. Support for the management of the school would also be welcome. If there are members who could support with visiting, training of school staff, advising on management and psychology, financial sponsorship, etc. Email sophieddm@gmail.com

SI Chembur Mumbai

SI Chembur Mumbai has been running for 14 years and they have no friendship links at all. Can you help? Please contact Lata Krishman on lata@mes.ac.in

News across the Federation

SI Tunbridge Wells & District

Tunbridge Wells and District Friendship weekend 18-21 November 2011



Mayor of Tunbridge Wells and Wiesbaden guests



President Ann with Liz Morgan-Lewis

SI Tunbridge Wells hosted 10 guests from Friendship Links in Holland and Germany, at their 65th anniversary celebrations in November. The speaker at the President's lunch, held at the Nevill Golf Club, was Immediate Past President of SIGBI, Liz Morgan-Lewis. The programme included a visit to the National Trust property, Knole House and deer park in Sevenoaks, and members and guests were able to drop in at a silent auction organised by mother club SI Sevenoaks. Evening entertainment, which was provided in the homes of club members in Tunbridge Wells, featured a group of hand bell ringers, an evening of magic with the very professional Magic Janet and warm hospitality throughout.



Evenings in the homes of club members



Dropping in on S I Sevenoaks

Barbara Bradford SI Tunbridge Wells

SI Penrith

Members of SI Bournemouth visited in June 2011 to support one of their members, Jean Harvey, who came to complete a sponsored climb of Duffon Pike 20 times. This is the equivalent height of Kilimanjaro (19,340ft), a climb other Bournemouth members were contemplating but Jean had climbed years before. Seven members of SI Penrith joined Jean at various times over the six days and managed to climb a total of 21 times between them. Jean raised £1800 for Cementing Futures. Members also all met together for afternoon tea at which Penrith members were given an update on the project.

SI Penrith also gives financial support to a Literacy Centre run by members of SI Dhaka. £120 was also paid for 2011/2012 by way of part payment of their capitation fees direct to Federation Office.

SI Kettering



With members from Douglas, IOM at the Montreal Convention (left)
Talat (Karachi Central) with Kettering members in Barbados (below)



President Sione (SI Voorburg) being presented with a gift by Eileen Smith SI Kettering on the occasion of their 50th Charter celebration (left)

Joyce chatting with S I South Kolkata in their cosy club room and being presented with a folder made in the craft workshop which has been so useful and much admired since I returned (left) .

Wendy Harland (Wellington, NZ) with President Sheila at our “Labels and Lunch event (right)



Joyce Pedersen OBE Friendship Links Co-ordinator S.I. Kettering

SI Bridgend & Moreton

Friendship link between SI Bridgend and SI Moreton North Queensland officially established - twice in fact! The first time at an International Women's Day dinner (Chris Knight organised this) and again today at the business meeting when their President signed the certificates.



Carys (Brown) President Elect SI Bridgend

SI Lincoln & District

10 members from SI Petrozavodsk came for a week of friendship in September 2011 a return visit is planned for this year to celebrate the 10th Charter Anniversary of the Russian Club. Members help SI Kwekwe with capitation fees and joint projects.

SI Cardiff & District

Members have worked with their Sisters from SI Kenilworth on a joint project looking at alcohol abuse in women and young girls.

Later this year they are working together on a combined sponsored White Water rafting for Water Aid

SI Dunfermaline

An on-going project whereby exercise books and writing materials are provided for a school in Zimbabwe. Members of SI Dunfermline provide the funds and members of SI Johannesburg buy the materials and transport them to SI Bulawayo whose members take them to the school. The President of Bangalore, Member from Johannesburg visited last year and six members visited Bielsko-Biala

SI Tamworth

SI Tamworth have provided money to two Friendship Link Clubs in light of recent natural disasters to help our sisters overseas

SI Karachi Central - £200 sterling given to Talat Pasha at Federation Conference at Brighton for their Club to use for flood victims in their country

SI Christchurch - £200 sent by bank draft to Christchurch Club for the members to use to ease problems caused by earthquake – correspondence received showing monies helped elderly residents with heaters

SI Maidstone

SI Maidstone has three active friendship links with:-

[SI Voorburg-rijswijk, The Netherlands, SI Europe](#)

This is a long standing FL with whom we have exchanged correspondence and visits over many years. In summer 2011 two members of SI Voorburg came on a weekend visit to Kent with a choir from their area. We entertained the choir one evening and were able to catch up and exchange news and greetings with the Soroptimist's and consolidate our FL with them yet again. Brenda Beetham is the contact and maintains a regular correspondence. She also took the lead in organising the evening noted above.

[SI Heswal, Cheshire, N Wales and Wirral, SI GBI](#)

An on-going link of several years: we exchange greetings at Christmas and at other salient events affecting the clubs, always endeavouring to meet at Conference. From the outset the late Dorothy Playford was the correspondent and this has now been taken over by Susan Hunt.

[SI Accra, SI Ghana SI Europe](#)

This link has been established for some years, consolidated by the joint project between the clubs of the Kente Sashes. SI Accra makes the Sashes and SI Maidstone sells them and they have proved a very attractive insignia not only for our club but for many others globally. The money raised has meant that SI Accra has been able to build a library, a splendid achievement. All this has been facilitated by our Member Dr Nellie Adjaye, recently retired Paediatrician. Nellie hails from Ghana and visits there regularly. The library has been completed now, so the monies raised are being used to provide screening of pre-school children (Kindergarten) in a small area of the capital ; as this service is not freely available they are hoping to document their findings and present it to the Health Authority concerned. The results of the screening for Visual, Hearing impairments as well as Aptitude will make interesting reading and Nellie hopes she will be able to see the report before she leaves Ghana next month. This is a wonderful example of an active, productive and joyful Friendship Link.

Mary Buchanon SI Maidstone



SI Selby

Developing International Friendships with SI Selby Yorkshire; SI Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine and SI Frankenthal, Germany.



Soroptimist International (SI) of Selby has enjoyed a Friendship Link with SI Frankenthal, Germany, for many years. The latter club celebrated 21 years of Soroptimism with a special anniversary weekend in the summer of 2008. Two members of SI Selby, Doreen Holmes and Hilary Putman attended, with their Soroptimisters. Whilst there, they met three ladies from Ukraine, including Olga Markova from SI Dnepropetrovsk.

Every other September, SI Dnepropetrovsk offers hospitality in their city and leads a guided tour of the Crimea. In 2009, Olga was one of the Crimea guides. Hilary and her husband Paul were among the guests, as were two members of SI Frankenthal.

In December 2009, SI Selby and SI Dnepropetrovsk signed a Friendship Link, to Further Goodwill and Understanding and Promote Friendship.

One of the plans of SI Dnepropetrovsk is to stimulate the learning of English by members of the Club. SI Selby helps with this, as several members of both clubs are "pen pals", exchanging e mails in English or photographs. Olga visited Selby in 2011. The attached photograph shows her, President Lindsay and members of SI Selby enjoying hospitality in a member's home.

In May 2012, SI Selby celebrates its Silver Jubilee. Four members of SI Dnepropetrovsk hope to visit and join in the celebrations, as do two members of SI Frankenthal.

So the International Friendship has developed and will, hopefully, continue to do so.

Port Elizabeth

Members have worked with SI Birkenhead on an Aids haven – aids orphans and sufferers (children), helped with renovating cottages .In addition a Bet Shekoom – shelter for prostitutes, sponsoring the building of a garden shed and irrigation system.

Other projects involve sponsoring of a girl from a disadvantage background, studying Mathematics and Science. Khaya Cheshire – day-care for physical and mentally disabled children – school fees and nappies for 3 of the children by individual members of the club.

SI Reigate and SI Bradford sponsors one of our projects every year. They select from a wish list from the projects

SI Cirencester



SI Cirencester with friendship links from Bury for IWD

I think all of us are wearing our Purple Teardrop badges to raise awareness of Human Trafficking, and 15 of us, including Kath from our Bury Friendship Link, stood on the bridge near our hospital on March 8th, International Women's Day. We are fortunate to have some strong Friendship Links with other Soroptimist clubs and we look forward to welcoming some of their members in September to our Regional Conference and Friendship week-end. Kath from S.I. Bury visits us often and has helped with goods for the Refuge and worked on our stalls. She and Elva attended our Annual Lunch last summer, as did Margaret from S.I. Durham, and President Sabine from S.I. Orge Kegums, Latvia. There are only two Soroptimist clubs in Latvia and we are full of admiration at their achievements. S.I. Cirencester continue to send children's clothes to Latvia and we also supported their seminar when over 100 participants from all over Latvia took part in a conference about teaching using the Montessori method. The Montessori speakers, all from Sweden, were accommodated locally and the conference was an enormous success. S.I. Itzehoe also keeps in touch and an exchange of small gifts was made at Christmas.

Jackie Gloyn SI Cirencester

Remember International Women's Day on the 8th March
Clubs are often looking for things that they can do with their Friendship Links.
Wouldn't it be fabulous to have bridges of peace right across SI uniting Clubs with their Friendship Links.

SI Stockport

Linking with SI Guernsey they have developed a history project in two infants schools based on the Guernsey children who were evacuated to Stockport just before the Second World War.

Members have also worked jointly on knitting hats for premature babies in the developing world.

Soroptimist International Club of Nicosia & Club of Pafos Cyprus

European Meeting and friendship days 28 Sep to 2 Oct 2011



The 9th European Meeting & Friendship Days Cyprus, 28th Sep – 2nd Oct 2012

Cost 100 euros details and booking form on SIGBI website

Club Friendship Day 3rd October 2012

Ania Szeremeta, a member of SI Warsaw - St Albans Friendship Link, joined members from SI Warsaw on the Millennium Bridge in London. Ania happened to be in the UK and saw the event on the SI St Albans website.

This is a great story of positive messages of solidarity and friendship - and also the importance of keeping your website up to date with what you are doing so that people from outside of your Club can easily join in!



Please could you email me your plans for Club Friendship Day on 3rd October 2012 This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate a new project, a fundraising or a celebratory get together

Ania Szeremeta from SI Warsaw is on the right next to Jane Slatter SI St Albans & District

Charter Anniversaries

SI Douglas Isle of Man

I was fortunate alongside my colleague Jenni Hall from SI Harrogate & District and our husbands John and Tim to attend the 60th Charter Anniversary of SI Douglas on the 13th to 16th April.

A wonderful friendship evening was held on the Friday night when President Ailsa introduced us to their friendship links from Holland and Denmark

On the Saturday we were warmly welcomed to a Civic reception at the Town Hall by the Mayor Councillor McNicholl and his wife Julie.

A memorable formal dinner was held at the Mount Murray Hotel Douglas. Many congratulations to SI Douglas.



SI Leeds

A visit is planned to Dortmund in Germany in October to help them celebrate their 40th year and to Grenoble in November for their 80th year.

Every friendship link is sent a copy of the club newsletter which keeps them abreast of all that is happening in the club especially the projects.

SI Cardiff & District

Members from SI Frederiksberg and SI Kenilworth joined members from SI Cardiff for their 60th Charter Anniversary lunch.

SI Halifax

Five Halifax members visited Deventer for their 60th Charter Anniversary

SI Chelmsford

Members of SI Paris Lutece and Bad Oeynhausen visited SI Chelmsford for their 60th Charter anniversary.

SI Slough, Windsor & Maidenhead

Friendship Link members from SI Morpeth, Amsterdam, Amstel, Tubize, Vilnius Old Town came to SI Slough Windsor and Maidenheads 50th Anniversary weekend 23rd to 25th March 2012.

SI Canterbury

SI Canterbury celebrated their Golden anniversary and had a wonderful weekend in which they hosted friendship links from SI Essen, SI Aosta, SI Versailles, and SI Bingley. And (even) 1 member from SI Bulawayo! Greetings and apologies for absence were received from SI Tacoma.

In addition they continue to help SI Bulawayo with the 'clean water/ bore hole project' and 'Bikes for Bulawayo' project, members also participated in SI Canterbury's Project Sierra project 'Voices in Verse'. The joint 'Bikes for Bulawayo' project was discussed. It is currently on hold. It is planned that members from SI Canterbury may go on a 'Field study' Friendship visit to Bulawayo / Zimbabwe in either 2013 or 2014. This will be linked to the water/ bore hole project. One member of SI Canterbury visited SI Bulawayo in November and attended a club meeting.

Some members from SI Canterbury/ Bulawayo met up at both Montreal and Brighton conferences

Members from SI Dolgellau and SI Canterbury re-kindled links at Brighton conference.

Members of SI Canterbury participated in SI Moreton North's on-line photography project, raising money for 'Birthing in the Pacific' project and raising environmental awareness. Results of international on-line competition are not yet known.

SI Burton upon Trent

Members are working with SI Banjul in Wellingara, a community in The Gambia supported by an English charity with which one of our members has very close links. Members raise money to support a local girl through her education and also give to other projects (water, health, education) that the community is working to help itself. By linking with SI Banjul, the aim is to open more funding and development opportunities for the people of Wellingara.

In addition there has been a 3-way meeting between SI Burton/SI Vejle/SI Gluckstadt to celebrate the 60th anniversary of SI Vejle and an SI Burton member is visiting SI Taupo to celebrate their first anniversary. Another member visited them just before their chartering in 2011.

SI Bilston & District

Members work with their friendship links in SI Lichfield in conjunction with Jasvinder Sanghera and her charity working on women in forced marriages. www.karmanirvana.org.uk

***Deadline for next Friendship Link Newsletter
Monday 30th July 2012***