

## President Pat's Patter



I have really enjoyed my year as President, entirely due to all the help and support I have had from all our wonderful members, so first, a big THANK YOU, to you all.

Over the last year we have held and taken part in many events including raising funds for our charities. I would just like to recall a few events

The Street Fayre at South Cerney, and the duck race were great fun, 'The Vintage Tea Party' was a huge success. Our Friendship weekend and Charter Lunch were really well attended, guests included our Regional President, the Mayor of Cirencester, members from our sister clubs in our region and Friendship Clubs from Latvia and Bury. The visit to Chedworth Roman Villa, was so interesting, aided and abetted by the Ermin Street Guard, and the Roman theme was compounded by a hilarious Toga party held in the Museum. The Phoenix Music Festival was such fun, we sponsored the "Lets Play" stage where up and coming musicians showcased their talents, some as young as five years of age!

Visits to Latvia and Itzehoe Friendship clubs were enjoyed by many of our members. Our Federation Conference in Malta was really inspiring, where it was lovely to feel the sunshine, and meet up with old friends.

Our new Newsletter, *Signal*, was launched this year, and is proving to be very popular. The Literacy Competition was again a great success, spearheaded by the new team. The Christmas charity events in the Corn Hall and the Parish Church were Christmas pudding inspired, thanks to members for knitting over 300 little 'puddings' to house a chocolate.

The Thames Head Inn was the venue for our Christmas party where we were well looked after, they even provided Santa "Claus" to hand out the presents.

On to Abbey 900 where we have played a major part in bringing 12<sup>th</sup> Century Manuscripts to Cirencester to be together for the first time since 1539! We will also be helping to sell Lego bricks to build the *Lego Abbey*.



We have just completed our first year as members of the Cirencester Chamber of Commerce, and this year the Cub sponsored their Young Enterprise Award. The inter Primary Schools Nature quiz is in full swing. In conjunction with the Gloucestershire Wild Life Trust it is now in its 19<sup>th</sup> Year. The Minnis Trust fund continues to support local people, including the 'Mock Trials' which members have enjoyed watching.

Our members have been a constant presence at Regional meeting and events. We have welcomed two new members this year and three new *Link* members. We are very mindful of loved ones we have lost during the year, also those members who have been ill and unable to attend meetings.

I wish all good wishes to Maggie Edney as she takes over the Presidency in April and to Barbara, Jackie and Anne and Jennie who will follow her during the year. You will have my full support in all you strive to achieve.

Yours in friendship

**Pat**

## President Elect Maggie's Musings



A welcome from our incoming President can be found on page 7.

International Women's Day

Nature Quiz

Research Project

Medieval Manuscripts

Water Aid

## Awareness Raising

### International Women's Day 8 March 2017

**Women in the Changing World of Work: Planet 50-50 by 2030**  
**Message by UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka on**  
**International Women's Day, 8 March 2017**

The full text can be found at  
: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2017/2/statement-ed-phumzile-iwd-2017>

#### Quotes from that speech that may make you think:

*'...Across the world, too many women and girls spend too many hours on household responsibilities—typically more than double the time spent by men and boys... In many cases this unequal division of labour is at the expense of women's and girls' learning, of paid work, sports, or engagement in civic or community leadership...'*

*'...We want to construct a different world of work for women. As they grow up, girls must be exposed to a broad range of careers, and encouraged to make choices that lead beyond the traditional service and care options to jobs in industry, art, public service, modern agriculture and science...'*

*'...We have to start change at home and in the earliest days of school, so that there are no places in a child's environment where they learn that girls must be less, have less, and dream smaller than boys...'*

*'...It will take determined steps to protect young girls from harmful cultural practices like early marriage, and from all forms of violence...'*

*'...Women and girls must be ready to be part of the digital revolution...'*

*'...We must see a significant shift in girls all over the world taking STEM subjects, ...Currently just 25 per cent of the digital industries' workforce are women...'*

*'...The stakes are high...'*

*'...It also requires a determined focus on removing the discrimination women face on multiple and intersecting fronts over and above their gender: sexual orientation, disability, older age, and race...'*

*'...Incentives will be needed to recruit and retain female workers; .....adoption of the Women's Empowerment Principles, and direct representation at decision-making levels.*

*'...Accompanying this, important changes in the provision of benefits for new fathers are needed...'*

*'...In this complexity there are simple, big changes that must be made: for men to parent, for women to participate and for girls to be free to grow up equal to boys.*

To find out more about the **Women's Empowerment Principles**

go to:

<http://weprinciples.org/Site/PrincipleOverview/>

## Women taking control of their lives

Girls took a stand at **Stroud High School, Gloucestershire** as they launched the following open letter on International Women's Day.

The open letter that the girls have written to the boys is demanding respect and asking them to understand that they are not porn stars and do not wish to send naked images of themselves. It is really inspiring and encouraging that these girls are speaking out

[https://padlet.com/stroudhigh/Women taking control of their lives](https://padlet.com/stroudhigh/Women_taking_control_of_their_lives) – open letter

There is a link on the open letter to click on to show your support.

Please also Tweet this and add it to Facebook etc. so that this campaign can gain maximum exposure.

<http://m.gloucestershirelive.co.uk/we-porn-stars/story-30183514-detail/story.html> – newspaper article

## 'I Just Froze'

Rape Crisis Scotland have launched a new campaign aimed at destroying the "myths" and misconceptions around rape.

There is a brilliant video clip to watch and of course, please Tweet and share as much as possible.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-39182779>

## We know that the following is a problem in Kenya and other such countries...but surely not in the UK!

### Is this a problem in our local schools?

*'Some Yorkshire school girls are missing lessons because they can't afford sanitary protection, a charity has said.'*

*Freedom4Girls was contacted by a school in Leeds after it became concerned about teenage girls' attendance.*

*The group provides sanitary products to women in Kenya - but is now doing the same in West Yorkshire.'*

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-39270018>

## SI Cirencester and District celebrate International Women's Day



To celebrate *International Day of the Woman*, members of SI Cirencester were promoting Soroptimism and recruiting members at an International Women's Day event held at the Sundial Theatre, entitled '*Wine, Women and Song*'! Every stall holder and/or key performers were women or greatly influenced by women.

## Research Project

### *Local people; local action*

The aims of the project were to identify where the needs are greatest for women and girls in our local community.

There were three objectives

1. To find out what the issues were.
2. To discover what existing services were in place to support these.
3. Conclude where SI Cirencester & District should put their efforts in order to have maximum impact.

From desk research and interviews conducted by community leaders the following was surmised.

- 15,000 children in Gloucestershire are living in poverty
- Higher than average problem with self-harm & suicide in young girls.
- An ageing population that causes isolation & loneliness
- Loneliness is not just restricted to older people, there has been a national increase in ages between 45-54

A lot of great organisations exist already to help support the above, but the focus tends to be on the crisis and not the prevention. The Club already works hard with schools to support local girls via the Literacy awards and Nature quiz. Fundraising and promotion of services by the Club, such as Gloucestershire Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre (GRASAC <http://www.glosrasac.org>), Cirencester Housing for Young People (CHYP <http://www.chypthecharity.org.uk>), the Churn Project (<http://www.churnproject.org.uk>), Cirencester Eating Disorders (<http://cirencester.gov.uk/cirencester-eating-disorders-self-help-group/>) and many more also fit within this.

In terms of identifying where the gaps may be the project team have decided to approach the young Carers and see if any help is needed, also to talk about plans for putting together a social companionship group for those aged 50 and over. Proposals will be drawn up and brought to the Club for members to decide how we should proceed.

**Fairtrade:** The question was raised about whether the Club could, once again, do more to support retailers in Cirencester to think about their supply chain and buy, where possible, Fair-Trade products?

Nikki

## Nature Quiz

The Gloucestershire Primary Schools Nature Quiz is in full swing in the South Cotswolds and we are well into Stage 1 out of 3... Each Stage consists of three rounds of individual questions, a team picture identification round and a team specimens identification round. (See photo!) Stage 1 will be completed by the end of March and the winners of each match go through to Stage 2 which completes at the beginning of May. The winners of Stage 3, our Area Final, will go through to the County Semi finals and will compete against schools from all over Gloucestershire.

All our schools have been very welcoming, the teams very enthusiastic and some perfectly behaved audiences of mainly Year 5 and Year 6 pupils who enjoyed participating.

Many thanks to the volunteers and supporters of our Club and especially to those ladies who have given up hours of their time to travel to the schools and support the matches. I hope you feel it's been worth it!  
Annie and Muriel



## Medieval Manuscripts – Corinium Museum Cirencester

*SI Cirencester is proud to be one of the Sponsors that has enabled the return of four Medieval Manuscripts to Cirencester for the first time in nearly 500 years.*



In order to understand the significance of the return to Cirencester of some of the Manuscripts that were written in the Abbey around the 12/13 century we need to look a little further back in time.

The Venerable Bede, although he never personally visited Cirencester, or Corinium as it was then known, was well versed in the local history of the area and wrote that when the Mercians defeated the Gervises at the battle of Cirencester in 628 the former took charge over the Severn Valley. This area with its rivers and gentle landscape was an ideal place for monks to build an Abbey and sustain its presence due to the surroundings.

Now on temporary *display at the Corinium Museum until 21 May, with free entry*, are four of the Manuscripts originally housed in the Abbey library from 1117 until its demise in 1539 when they were sent to Jesus College Oxford and the Bodleian library where they are still housed.

Perhaps what is especially important concerning these Manuscripts are the beautiful examples of book binding which is clearly to be seen in the display and are among only a handful of examples of Romanesque bindings.

**This is a unique opportunity, not to be missed, to view these Manuscripts before they are returned to the Oxford libraries.**

Marietta

## Water Aid

In the Club's continuing support of 'Water Aid' a Quiz is being held on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April, in South Cerney Village Hall. Anyone is welcome, please see details on this Poster.

### NB

Please could the members who have these boxes bring them along to our AGM Club Meeting on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April in order for them to be collected and opened before our quiz evening.

Many thanks  
Anne Croft

  
Soroptimist International Cirencester  
is organising a

### QUIZ

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2017  
in South Cerney Village Hall  
starting at 7pm  
Teams of 4  
There will be a Bar and Raffle

Tickets are £10 each  
(which includes a hot supper)  
Available from Anne Croft 01285 860753  
and South Cerney Post Office  
This event is for

 **WaterAid**

## Friendship Links



### SI Durham, England

SI Durham have invited members of SI Cirencester to their 70<sup>th</sup> Charter Dinner on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May. In addition, they are hosting a Friendship Weekend at "63" in London, to which all members are welcome. Further details can be obtained about both these events by e-mailing Jackie [jackie@jackiegloyn.uk](mailto:jackie@jackiegloyn.uk).  
Jackie

## This and That

### Unwanted items or not so loved presents!

Please have a good look into kitchens, lofts sheds, garages etc. for all those unwanted items, or not so loved presents! We would like them for our stall at **South Cerney's Street Fair on Bank holiday Monday 29th May**. Our stall will be called:

*Treasures Old and New.*

All the proceeds will go to our Local Charities Fund. The money in this fund is distributed by the Club, every Christmas, to nominated local Charities.

We can Collect!!!!

**Please contact Anne Croft 01285 860753.**

### Recycle Furniture

As a Club we are aware of and support Cirencester Housing for Young People (CHYP <http://www.chypthecharity.org.uk>) but we have also received the following request:

*Hi, I wanted to introduce myself as I run the Cirencester Furniture Bank. Cirencester Furniture Bank offers a free furniture collection service. We then distribute the furniture out to people in need and use it to provide local jobs through recycling and upcycling. Our aim is to improve local lives through innovation and compassion. Our project is linked with Stroud District Furniture Bank and the Foodbank and together we are working to end poverty across both communities.*

*If you would like further information about our project, please do get in touch. Thanks.*

*Jo Mansell*

Tel: 01453 367260

## Birthdays and Dates for Diary

### Birthdays

#### March

7<sup>th</sup> EW

23 JS

25<sup>th</sup> PW

#### April

2<sup>nd</sup> SD

8<sup>th</sup> SA



#### May

18<sup>th</sup> JG

26<sup>th</sup> MH

#### June

11<sup>th</sup> ME

12<sup>th</sup> BB

16<sup>th</sup> MC

20<sup>th</sup> JR

21<sup>st</sup> AK



# President Elect Maggie's Musings



Welcome to another Soroptimist year, which promises to be just as busy, but in a different format. I am honoured to be your first club President of five in the year, taking us through until September, when Barbara Banks takes over. If we don't get dizzy, it should be fun!

Firstly, I give my thanks to Pat Wright, who has been such a caring, lively president and splendid at attracting new members to the Club. She has also involved us in Cirencester's Abbey 900 celebrations, and we have sponsored the collection of Medieval Manuscripts now on display in the museum until 21<sup>st</sup> May (see article by Marietta on page 5). I ask you all to support our big effort at fund raising for this, by making our **Vintage Tea Party on 25<sup>th</sup> June** a success. This is replacing our annual lunch this year, so please invite all you know to come along to join us for a happy event. We have a great history as a Club, and we will be celebrating all we have done down the years and sharing memories at our April meeting "*Down Memory Lane*". So please be ready to contribute to make us proud and make us laugh at the same time. You will find information on the rest of our programme in the editions of "Signal" and in our club booklet.

There is no overall theme to the year, as the five of us will bring our own slant on life to Soroptimist meetings. I shall be representing the Club (with other members) at S.I. Durham Club's 70<sup>th</sup> celebrations at "63", and at the Regional A.G.M. and conference in June. My thanks go to Jackie Gloyn who has offered to arrange a summer outing for us in August – so please watch out for details later.

I look forward to seeing you at the A.G.M. on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April and at our first event, the Quiz Evening in aid of World Water Day, on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April. Enjoy this unique year!

*Yours in friendship,  
Maggie*

## Future Club and Regional Meetings

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April, 7.00 for 7.30pm:** AGM and President handover at the Royal Agricultural University (RAU)

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 7.00 for 7.30pm:** Dinner meeting at RAU "*Down Memory Lane*"

**Wednesday 3rd May 7.00 for 7.30pm:** Business and Project meeting at RAU

**Wednesday 17th May 7.00 for 7.30pm:** Dinner Meeting at RAU. Speaker from Scrubditch Farm

**Wednesday 7th June:** Business and Project meeting RAU

**W/E 16th - 18th June 2017 SI SW&CI Friendship Weekend, Conference and AGM -.** The AGM is being held on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June at the Tiverton Hotel, Blundells Road, Tiverton, EX16 4DB, with other events planned over the week-end.

**Wednesday 5th July:** Meeting at Cirencester Bowls Club with Ploughman's supper

**Wednesday 19th July:** Business and Project meeting at Thames Head

## Other Events

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April** Quiz Night in aid of *Water Aid* at South Cerney Village Hall

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April** Start of Lego build of Abbey model

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May** SI Durham 70th Charter Dinner at Ramside Hall, Carrville, Durham DH1 1TD

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May** Medieval Manuscripts leave Cirencester

**W/E 9-11<sup>th</sup> June:** Weekend at "63" hosted by members of SI Durham (Friendship Club of SI Cirencester)

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June Vintage Tea Party:** hosted by SI Cirencester – everybody welcome – *SAVE THE DATE*

\*\*\*\*\*



With our membership increasing, I thought it would be a good idea to explain to anyone who might be interested in joining us how to get in touch. I will be Membership Secretary for our forthcoming year and would be happy to hear from anyone: we could then arrange an informal meeting for a cup of coffee and a chat.

The club meets twice a month, usually on the first and third Wednesdays. The first is our Business Meeting where decisions are made about our projects etc. and the third is our Dinner Meeting which involves having a meal together and usually listening to a guest speaker.

**These are my contact numbers: 01285 64115 and 07582 637679**  
**Jennie Beadle**

---

## Website Links

- SI Cirencester web link: <http://sigbi.org/cirencester/>
- Global Voice SIGBI newsletter: <http://sigbi.org/category/news/>
- Soroptimist International: <http://www.soroptimistinternational.org>

## Feedback

We hope that you have enjoyed reading this edition of SIGNAL, and thank you for all those who have contributed. We would appreciate any feedback and suggestions to improve further editions. Please send to:

Publicity Chairman: Barbara Banks – [Barbara@banks31.myzen.co.uk](mailto:Barbara@banks31.myzen.co.uk)

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/cirensorops>

Facebook:  
<https://m.facebook.com/soroptimistcirencester>