

President Pat's Patter



I We are SO encouraged by the very positive feedback we had for our first issue of Signal in the Summer. With our incredible publishing team, I am sure this will be an equal, if not better issue!!

One of our friendship link Clubs, SI Bury, is holding their Charter lunch weekend in October Jackie G. is representing us. All good wishes to them for a very successful weekend. Our Literacy team is now at full stretch completing the marking of over 1000 entries for this year's competition. The Awards Ceremony is on Friday November 18th. The members who visited SI Itzehoe have just returned, and were thrilled to have been made so welcome. (See report)

The Federation Conference is to be held in Malta this year, there are seven of us attending, and, as our Club won the overall Project award in Glasgow last year for our Literacy Competition, we have to give a short presentation. I am SO grateful for all the help that is being given to make this possible, especially to Sarah Dennis and Andy Pawsey.

Plans are well under way for our Club to be included in Abbey 900 celebrations. We hope to sponsor the display of ancient manuscripts that have not been seen together in Cirencester since 1539. Fund raising ideas abound, and further details can be found in the report from Marietta.

We continue to attend as many meetings of Cirencester Chamber of Commerce as possible, and this has proven to have raised our profile here in our home town, and we would recommend this valuable link to other Clubs.

We feel that as our club was formed here 68 years ago this helps to keep us more up to date!!

SI Weston-Super-Mare Club (in our region) is holding an event on 25th November for *International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women*. Members from clubs in our Region are joining a train from their areas arriving into Bristol. Everyone is asked to wear ORANGE!! and march through Bristol. We hope some members will be able to attend.

SI Bath is holding a Quiz evening on 22nd October in aid of the [Meru Garden Project](#). A team is being arranged from our Club. SI Swindon (our 'Daughter' Club) are celebrating their 56th Anniversary Lunch on Sunday 16th October, three of our members are supporting them in their celebrations.

Our next club dinner meeting will be held on **October 19th**, at a new venue for us, **The Thames Head, Tetbury Road**. We will be hosting members of the Cirencester Inner Wheel Club. Meg Blumsom will be bringing us up to date with Abbey 900, and Anne Blagden will be presenting "Egyptian Spirit" teaching us all belly dancing!!!

As you see another very busy time for us all, we are enjoying fulfilling our vision and mission not only with our own Club members but with our Soroptimist sisters at Regional and National levels.

Thank you to ALL members for their amazing enthusiasm and support for all that we do.

Yours in friendship

Pat

Projects/Programme Action

Research Project

Literacy
Awards

**Nature
Quiz**

GRASAC

**Purple
Community
Fund**

Abbey 900

See overleaf

Research Project

Local people; local action

As mentioned in the last issue of SIGNAL, our Project Co-ordinator, Nikki, has undertaken some research mapping national statistics against local reports and reading research commissioned by the council to identify problem areas and where the need was greatest for women and young girls in the Cirencester District. This research can help inform plans for how the Club can facilitate support and/or take action.

The Project Co-ordinator is able to report that, following the work to date; there is now a small team of volunteers willing to help plan the best way forward.

If you are still interested in being involved but haven't spoken/contacted Nikki the Project Co-ordinator please feel free to contact her at:

Nikki Pawsey (Email: nicolatequila@aol.com)

NB You do not need to be a Soroptimist to volunteer, any thoughts gratefully received!



Nature Quiz

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust (GWT) Primary Schools Nature and Wildlife Quiz 2016/2017

Preparations are underway for the next Nature Quiz.

Quiz Masters 'extraordinaire'
Annie and Muriel
will be sharing progress in the next issue of
SIGNAL



The Literacy Awards 2016 are fast approaching!

Friday 18th November
at the
Royal Agricultural University
(RAU)

7.00pm for 7.15pm

Do you have the date in your diary?

All the papers have now been marked.
An independent moderator is presently
finalising the short list.

Results will be known in mid October when all the
schools and winners will be notified

Guest author

John Dougherty

<http://www.visitingauthor.com>

will be
presenting the awards

Future Plans:

The organisers are hoping to contact the library to
ask if they will display the winning stories after the
Awards Evening.

In addition, Corinium Radio have indicated that they
would like the children to record their stories
(with parental consent)
to enable them to be transmitted locally

Gloucestershire Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre (GRASAC)

A card sent to SI Cirencester from the Service Director and the Team thanked the Club for our £1000 donation, including the following message:

"Raising awareness of sexual consent within schools and colleges across the county is a crucial part of our work.

Your donation contributes to this much needed service and your support of this is gratefully welcomed"

Soroptimist Laura has arranged some dates with Magda, (who delivers the 'Appropriate Relationships' programme to teachers, youth workers and young people.) to support her in delivering the programme to local schools.

Due to the growing recognition that young people are being abused and need to have more guidance about consent in general and appropriate use of technology, and social media in particular, the Police and Crime Commissioner has invited GRASAC to apply for a further two days funding to appoint a young person's worker to support Magda to work with schools, colleges and youth clubs. GRASAC's reputation for delivering professional support to victims and survivors of sexual abuse in Gloucestershire is growing and funding has already been gained to appoint a Rural Outreach Support Worker who started this month.

GRASAC has also agreed to work with Victim Support Gloucestershire to pilot a service for men due to the increasing referrals and need for experienced counselling.

As the organisation grows and more staff are appointed, the need to form and review policies and financial accountability is apparent and Kathy is working and meeting regularly with other Trustees to ensure that the Management of this valuable organisation is fit for purpose.

Kathy

Abbey 900

On the evening of Tuesday 6th September, President Pat and myself attended the welcome ceremony for Abbey 900 in the Cirencester Parish Church where we were treated to nibbles and drinks served by people dressed in medieval costume. We were then given a talk with demonstrations around the church of the planned events for Abbey 900.

A steering group set up last year has planned a year long festival for 2017 to commemorate the founding of the Abbey of St Mary's in the town 900 years ago. The programme of events will include ecclesiastical, Heritage and Arts, Performing Arts and Youth and Community. Naturally, in order to facilitate this wonderful festival, sponsorship is needed from the local community. Negotiations with the Bodleian library and Jesus College Oxford have enabled the Corinuim Museum to create a four month temporary exhibition of four of the original manuscripts, which have not been seen in Cirencester since 1539. These will be on view, free of charge, in the museum and it is anticipated that between 20 to 22 thousand people will come to view these priceless manuscripts.

We hope to be in a position, as a club, to Sponsor this great event either with the help of other clubs or go it alone. The overall cost is £1500. This is a unique opportunity to have our name boldly displayed along side the exhibition. Fund raising event are to be arranged, ideas will be listened to.

Marietta

Purple Community Fund (PCF)

<http://www.p-c-f.org/index.php>

Do you use cans with ring pulls?

If you do.....read on

Ring pulls are very much appreciated by the above charity, formally known as *The Philippine Community Fund*.

The rings are re-cycled into beautiful accessories such as scarf rings and various types of purses and handbags.

<http://ringpull.org/shop/>

Each ring pull is worth 4p to PCF so please continue to collect them. Members please bring them to club meetings

Non members please contact:
Anne Croft: Tel: 01285 860753

Friendship Links



SI Bury, England

SI Bury generously invited members of SI Cirencester to their Charter Dinner on 7th October with an accompanying programme of entertainment. Unfortunately, this year, only one of our members was able to attend but greetings and best wishes were sent from President Pat and all members of the Club. Here is Jackie's feedback:

"Our Friendship Link, SI Bury, celebrated their 73rd Annual Dinner at The Red Hall Hotel on Friday 7th October. This was a most successful evening, with an attendance of over 80 Soroptimists from around their region. The food was excellent, beautifully presented, and the entertainment by Harmony Belles was much appreciated by all. I had a most enjoyable evening having being welcomed by President Joan, looked after by Kath and Elva, and most of their club members coming to my table for a chat."

Jackie



SI/Europe Club Itzehoe (<http://clubitzehoe.soroptimist.de/home/>)

Four Cirencester Soroptimists and one 'Mr Soroptimist' set off to Itzehoe at 3am on Friday 23rd September; only delayed by 10 minutes when Jackie had to be shaken awake - her Sonic Boom alarm clock almost waking the neighbours and flashing madly beside her! They received a formidable welcome, from three Soroptimists waiting to greet them and drive them back into Itzehoe. Friday evening they enjoyed an informal get-together, with members of SI Club Itzehoe, including a wonderful buffet supper and drinks at the home of President Marita.

On Saturday, a tour of Itzehoe on foot was organised. This was led by the curator of the town's museum to see the buildings and home of the local artists, Wenzel-Hablik and Elizabeth Lindemann, followed by a snack lunch in the museum prepared by some of the Soroptimists. Restaurant meals, visits to gardens, the Kiel Canal, the pretty town of Gluckstadt and museums were also enjoyed during the weekend.



However, the 'dizzy heights' were reached on the Saturday with the celebration of SI Itzehoe's 10th Anniversary. Cocktails were initially enjoyed with Soroptimists from Denmark and members of other Clubs in the Region. Prior to the dinner speeches were delivered by local politicians and Club Presidents including Cirencester's Past President Kathy on behalf of President Pat, who was unable to attend. An excellent meal with musical entertainment was enjoyed. It was a wonderful evening filled with great warmth and friendship, mixing and mingling with friends whilst dancing the night away!. All five will retain memories of a wonderful visit and look forward to hosting many members from Itzehoe when SI Cirencester celebrates its 70th anniversary in 2018.

Jackie, Kathy, Judith, Anne and David

Fundraising

Presentation to Signpost



As reported in the first issue of SIGNAL, on Saturday, 2nd July the Club organised a very successful 'Vintage Tea Party' in aid of President Pat's local Cirencester charity Signpost <http://www.cirencester-signpost.org.uk> The event was highly successful and a cheque for £1,500 was presented to Signpost at their Centre in Ashcroft Road.

The money helped to take families to the seaside at Weston-Super-Mare, for a day's enjoyment. Many of these families experience loneliness and financial hardship. More than 130 people enjoyed the glorious sunshine, beach, and numerous ice creams. The group leaders, Graham and Juliette Harris wrote and thanked our President and Club members saying:

"We had a brilliant day with over 130 people enjoying everything that a summer day out to the seaside had to offer. It afforded many happy memories that will last a long time Graham and I are truly thankful to all you wonderful Sorop ladies for helping to make this happen."
Juliette and Graham



Monday 14th November: Stall at Corn Hall

A Combined Charities Christmas Sale will be held in the Corn Hall on Monday, 14th November from 9:30am to 4:00pm. We shall be selling Christmas Puddings, Sticky Toffee Puddings, and our Tea Towels with a Christmas Pudding Recipe printed on. We shall also have our usual good quality Christmas gifts for sale and, new for this year, bespoke Christmas Cards, designed by one of our members. There will be a raffle for a Large Polar Bear.

Members please inform Judith Wood if you can help on our stall.

Ideas – Ideas please

In March 2017, it will be World Water Aid collection time. Our Fund Raising Co-ordinator still has some “small change” boxes for those who would like them BUT she would like new ideas on a FUND RAISING EVENT.

Please test your “grey matter” for ideas and inform Anne Croft.

Awareness Raising

Phoenix Festival 2016



The Soroptimist marquee was set up on Friday evening, alongside the ‘Let’s Play Stage’. A new banner had been made for the occasion, which was displayed in a prominent position, to advertise the fact that SI Cirencester were the Sponsors of the ‘Let’s Play Stage’.



Although the weather selling flower garlands young girls and families on Facebook and they



was unpredictable, Saturday was quite busy. The Soroptimists were (made by one or two of our members) which were popular, and both had their photos taken in the frame. These were then posted attracted immediate responses from Soroptimists internationally.

Members spoke to many people who were interested in the ethos of Soroptimism, some who had not heard of us beforehand.

The ‘Let’s Play Stage’ was popular on both days, varying from seven year olds playing their drums, to up-and-coming groups. These brought in an audience, which sat on straw bales and really enjoyed themselves.

Sunday was busier despite the rain, and the Festival even had a visit from the Red Arrows. During the afternoon, Cirencester Mayor, Mark Harris, interviewed President Pat on the Main Stage. The ‘Let’s Play’ Crew also spoke and thanked the Soroptimists for making it possible for them to be there.



The Soroptimist stall was packed away at about 6 o’clock, but the Festival was due to continue well into evening.....!

Jennie

President Pat: Particular thanks to JW and JB for giving up their Bank Holiday to organise and manage our marquee

This and That

Thank you

2016 has been the year of the OLYMPICS and what a pleasure that gave us all, especially those of us not able to move about easily. To cheer on all those who put so much of their lives towards their goals, was almost as good as doing it oneself but then I thought of the many who help others without being recognized, many of whom belong to our club.

I know this from personal experience; in fact, I think Cirencester Soroptimist club is the best in SIGBI. Not only do they work hard for charities we are supporting, they quietly get on with helping those members who are having difficulties at home, by cooking, ironing, or just popping in for a quick chat. I cannot thank them enough for their support so.....

Gold medals for them all and love from Muriel Paine.

Don't forget - For hire



Vintage Tea sets for hire

The Club has a wonderful collection of Vintage tea sets, with milk jugs, teapots etc. for hire. Please contact Marietta Crockford for more details on [0709 510826](tel:0709510826).

2017 Calendars for Sale - £7.99



969639

Calendars with 12 fine Cirencester scenes are being sold in aid of *Cirencester Twinning Association* at a cost of £7.99. The money will go towards funding a programme for Easter, when we expect 40+ from Itzehoe staying for three or four nights. Host families will be needed. For more information: Text: [07970 969639](tel:07970969639)



Bespoke Christmas Cards – from 35p each

Bespoke, hand made, Christmas Cards are available from 35p per card for the Club's local charity fund. If anyone is interested please send a message via our website:

<http://sigbi.org/cirencester/contact-us/>



Packing Christmas stockings, for children in [Stroud Beresford Group Refuge](#) and [Cirencester Deaf Children's Club](#), at Jackie Gloyn's on **Thursday 3rd November**, all day from 10am. Coffees, soup and sandwiches will be served whilst Soroptimists, and friends wrap and pack. Please bring any excess wrapping paper, your scissors, and a few sweets if you can. Drop in at any point during the day. For further information please **text** Jackie: [07970 969639](tel:07970969639)

Birthdays and Dates for Diary

Birthdays

October Birthdays:

7th - NP

17th - JW



November Birthdays:

5th - JN

December Birthdays

14th - AB

January Birthdays

2nd - JS

Dates for Diary

October 12th Chamber of Commerce Networking Meeting. 6.00-8.00pm, Ingleside House, Beeches Road, Cirencester, GL7 1BN

November 18th SI Cirencester Literacy Awards at RAU, Cirencester

November 21st SI Cheltenham: *Modern Slavery – does it happen in Gloucestershire?* Phoenix, the St Vincent & St Georges Centre, Winchcombe St, Cheltenham GL52 2NN

More details from Pat on [07513002608](tel:07513002608) or at cheltenhamglos-sorops@yahoo.co.uk

November 25th SI Bristol action day to support "Violence against Women, stop it now"

NB Wear something orange!

Future Club Events

Wednesday 19th October, 7.00 for 7.30pm: Club Dinner at The Thames Head, Tetbury Road, <http://www.thamesheadinn.co.uk/>

Wednesday 2nd November, 7.00 for 7.30pm: Business Meeting at the Royal Agricultural University

Monday 14th November: Stall at Corn Hall, Market Place, Cirencester

Wednesday 7th December, 7.00 for 7.30pm: Club Christmas Party at The Thames Head,

Feedback

We hope that you have enjoyed reading this edition of SIGNAL, and would appreciate any feedback and suggestions to improve further editions. Please send to: Publicity Chairman: Barbara Banks – Barbara@banks31.myzen.co.uk

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