



Just Judith . . .

Hello Everyone let me introduce myself.

I have been a member of SI Cirencester & District for just six years and never believed that I would become President of the Club. Maybe I should have been warned as I have been Honorary Secretary for the last 6 years.

I am married with two daughters and 4 grandchildren, so home life can also be very busy, as well as Soroptimists. I was a Youth Leader for 25 years, and very proud to say that I ran the very successful Cirencester Phoenix Majorettes during these years.

I would like to say a personal 'Thank You' to the five members of our Club who took on the sharing role of President for 2017/18, Maggie Edney, Barbara Banks, Jackie Gloyn, Jennie Beadle and Anne Croft, who did a wonderful job of keeping everything in order.

I feel very honoured that as the Club celebrates it's 70th Anniversary I have been asked to be the President. We have a very busy year ahead starting with our Friendship & 70th Anniversary Celebrations weekend at the end of May. I am thrilled to say that we have 15 over-

seas visitors coming to Cirencester, from our Friendship Link Clubs in Germany, Latvia, Iceland and Vienna plus our UK Clubs Bury and Durham. I am also hoping that members of Clubs from the South West & Channel Islands will be joining us in the celebrations.

To set 2018 off we will be doing 'Teas and Scones' at the Fleece Market at the beginning of May in Cirencester Market Place, and the day after our Celebrations we will be manning a 'bric a brac' stall at The Duck Race, South Cerney.

In June our Project will be making awareness of 'Trafficking and Modern Slavery' when we will be inviting members of the public to come and open a 'Gift Box'. We will be manning this stall for a week in Cirencester Market Place. We did this Project five years ago, when most people made the comment 'but it only happens in London not the Cotswolds' – I think people are now aware that it is very close at home.

We will also be kept busy on August Bank Holiday at the Phoenix Festival, which is a Festival that we have used to make people more aware of the work that Soroptimists do plus we sponsor a 'Let's Play' stand where local amateur musicians can entertain the public.

There are just a few of the things that SI Cirencester & District will be doing for the first four months of this year. Hopefully I will be able to bring you a report back later in the season together with news of other Projects that we have planned.

Yours in Friendship

Judith Wood

Gloucestershire Deaf Association Says Thank You



A lot has been happening at GDA in recent months, and as Soroptimists have been such champions of this charity in recent years, we thought to share an update. You may or may not be aware just how much GDA's work has grown in recent years, and the positive impact this has been having on the lives of deaf and hard of hearing people in Gloucestershire. The charity now runs 32 different services and supports well over 4,000 people each year. You may be less aware that deaf and hard of hearing people in neighbouring Wiltshire and South Gloucs have at the same time seen support from their own local charities decline or stop altogether due to lack of funding.

In response to requests, GDA has recently decided to reach out and start supporting deaf and hard of hearing. GDA is anticipating our services in Cirencester, and in particular our deaf children's club, will attract new families, especially from Swindon area. We also hope to start family signing classes. Hopefully you will have seen the Oscar winning film "The Silent child", starring Maisie Sly who is a member of the club.

We are so grateful to the Soroptimists for all your support over the years, and we hope this positive update will show you the difference your fundraising has made.

Best Wishes, Jenny Hopkins

Curry Night Fundraiser Tops £500



**Your small change will make a big difference
with safe water, toilets and hygiene**



This year we decided to raise money for our annual donation to Water Aid by hosting An Indian Curry Evening in our local restaurant ... The Rajdoot in Castle Street in Cirencester.

The staff served us a wonderful menu and about 50 members and friends had a great evening. The quiz caused much head-scratching and an excellent raffle raised £386.

Some of our members have collecting boxes for small change and these opened raised £124. So our annual donation amounted to over £500.

Many thanks to our club members who have helped to raise such a grand donation.

Would you drink this?

**5000 children die every day
from drinking dirty water**





Anne becomes our final President of 2017



President Anne welcomes new member Sue Dyer



Local charities benefitting from the club's fundraising



Judith takes the reins for this special year

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Programme Action Updates

Young Carers Project: members are busy contacting GP surgeries on behalf of Gloucestershire Young Carers to ascertain what awareness and information is currently available and to seek opportunities to deliver a presentation at a team meeting.

Action Against Loneliness Project: members are contacting local cafes to try and develop the Chatter and Natter table initiative.

Literacy Competition: In preparation of this years competition, schools have been contacted and a new author is being met.

To support our daughter club SI Swindon members have become court observers in the domestic abuse court.

The club was awarded a model of the Abbey in recognition of our sponsorship for the return of the medieval manuscripts as part of Abbey 900.



The 2018 Membership Message

It's time for change. Don't just stand there, let's go do it! Join our Soroptimist movement and be part of the solution

This is the message and image SIGBI are using this year and if we get the minimum sign ups (100) Thunderclap will post the message on 12th May at 10am on your social media channels.

Help us reach more people Last year we reached 127,960 people - can you help us beat it this year? Sign up today - www.thunderclap.it/projects/69093-it-s-time-for-change



Happy Birthday



May — 6th JE, 18th JG, 26th MH

June — 11th ME, 12th BB, 16th MC, 20th JR, 21st AK, 23rd SF



SI Cirencester & District



Will be celebrating their 70th Anniversary in 2018

And hope that you will be able to join them

Friendship Weekend 25—27th May 2018

President's Lunch 27th May 2018

12.30 for 1.00 pm

Guest Speaker: Baroness Fookes of Plymouth

Rendcomb College, Cirencester, GL7 2HA

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.

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