



Just Judith .

It is hard to believe that we have said to Christmas 2018 and we are now well in to 2019.

During the Summer and Autumn, we were kept very busy with our Literacy Competition 2018. Out of the 14 local schools that were invited to enter, 12 actually participated. All 1200 entries were marked, then the top scoring stories were forwarded onto an independent judge to finalise the winners. The standard was very high and judging becomes more difficult each year. We held a very enjoyable Awards Evening at the end of November when a local children's author, Debbi Evans, together with Cirencester Mayor Nigel Robbins, presented the winners with medals and vouchers.

Along with four members of the Club, I attended the SIGBI 84th Federation Conference which was held in Liverpool in October. These Conferences are always enjoyable and enable you to meet old and new friends from the various Clubs in the UK and abroad.

We were then kept busy with our fundraising charity stalls which we ran during November and December to help raise monies for local charities.

Unfortunately I was unable to do as much fundraising as I had hoped to do this year for my allocated charity 'The Corinium Guitar Players' as my husband was taken very ill and spent over eight weeks in Cheltenham and Bristol hospitals. This was a worrying time but I am pleased to say that he is now on the road to recovery and we were able to enjoy Christmas together with our family.

Many members of the Club also had a very enjoyable Christmas Dinner at the Corinium Court Hotel, Cirencester, in December. Even Santa came to join us!

Here's to a very happy and busy 2019/20.

Judith Wood



84th SIGBI Federation Conference 25 -27 October 2018

Five members of SI Cirencester headed to Liverpool in October to attend the 84th SIGBI Federation Conference at BT Convention Centre, part of the Arena and Convention Centre on the famous Mersey waterfront.

Liverpool was found to be a friendly city with striking architecture and attractions. There was a full and varied programme of events beginning on the evening of Thursday 25th ending late on Saturday 27th October. Some sightseeing was squeezed in each day by walking from the hotel to the Conference. The "big wheel", similar to the London Eye, was particularly popular.

The theme of the conference was "Empower today: Enable tomorrow" and a wide variety of speakers expanded and illustrated these words including Professor Helen Pankhurst (CARE International), Terry Waite (Y Care International), Emily Rose Yates (accessibility consultant) and Dr Ann-Marie Wilson (28 Too Many, an anti FGM charity active in 28 countries). Also, the range of impressive Programme Action projects presented by National and International club delegates was particularly thought-provoking. Time was also available to enjoy Liverpool and socialise with Soroptimist friends old and new.

This year Kuala Lumpur will host the 21st SI International Convention and the SIGBI Federation Conference will be held in Bournemouth. Apply now!



St Joseph's Shopping Bags



Shopping bags are available at just £8 each. Very colourful and great quality. Please talk to Margaret if you would like one.

UN Days



8th March-International Women's Day.

22nd March-World Water Day.

21st September-International Day of Peace.

Literacy Awards 2018



Club members were delighted to welcome the award winners of their Annual Literacy Competition to the Royal Agricultural University. The children, from local primary schools, with their families were presented with their awards by the Mayor of Cirencester, Mr Nigel Robbins and Debi Evans, a local author of children's books. Debi entertained everyone with stories and pictures of Rolo the dog, hero of her delightful books. In all, 26 prizes were awarded.

The competition has increased in popularity each year, this year attracting over 1100 entries. The excellent standards of hand writing, storytelling and illustration seen in the entries made judging the awards a challenging task for local Soroptimist organisers and the adjudicator in Yorkshire.

This project for local children supports Soroptimist aims to "educate, enable and empower" women and children. We look forward with excitement to next year's competition.

Skittles Evening at "The Tavern" in Kemble.

Club members with their friends and families showed off their bowling skill (or lack of them) during an enjoyable evening in November with an excellent supper provided by the pub kitchen with Daniel in charge. Colin Brooker kept score and won the prize of a large bottle of Prosecco and an excellent range of raffle prizes were given out.

This popular social event raised £251 for the Local Charities Fund.



Combined Charities Christmas Fair

This annual fair was held in the Corn Hall on November 12th with a large number of local charities taking part. Our wide range of Christmas gifts and decorations for sale, many handmade, proved to be very popular and a very healthy £271 was raised. This figure was boosted to a magnificent £447 by wonderful raffle of a drinks and foods hamper organised by Pat. Her goal of selling 100 tickets for £1 each swelled to 176 with the winner being another charity stall holder!

After a donation to Cirencester Hospital League of Friends, who organise the event, we finished with a marvellous total of £427 for our Local Charities Fund.



Christmas Dinner 2018

The Christmas dinner, held the Corinium Hotel in Cirencester, was enjoyed by all.

As a result of Joyful Giving donations at the Christmas dinner £120 has been sent to the Regional President's charity for 2017-2019 "Women, Water and Leadership".



Skittles Evening
Drillmans Arms
Sat 16th March, 7pm
Supporting Water Aid, World Water Day



85th SIGBI Federation Conference
Bournemouth International Centre
24-26 October 2019



Happy Birthday

February —21st MM

March —7th EW, 23rd JS, 25th PW

April —18th SA



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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