

Welcome From The President



Welcome to the 1st edition of 2020.

I'd like to wish you all a very Happy New Year!

As president of this club one of the events that I am most proud of is our literacy competition. The planning does almost takes a year and I'm certain that this will be the best year yet. I'd like to share some key dates for your diaries :

17th March: schools invited to participate.

28th April: Information sent to participating schools.

6th July: Entries received.

20th November: Awards ceremony.

Club members were delighted to welcome the award winners of the 2019 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, Councillor Patrick Coleman 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, 27 prizes were awarded. This project aims to create the next generation of story tellers.

Another highlight for me was our Open Evenings where we welcomed members, friends of and those who were curious to know more about what we do, the issues we are passionate about and how to get involved, all over a glass of wine and nibbles. If you are interested in attending, our next Open Evening is on 20th May at the Bingham House C-Hub (next door to The Fleece) It would be wonderful to see you. Please RSVP to me: shirleyalexander@ by end of April so we know how many to cater for.

The rest of this edition reflects on our activities of the last quarter of 2019, I hope you enjoy the read.

Shirley Alexander



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



the whole story. Our experiences within our environment enables our brains to develop and for us to become individualised. As we have more of life's experiences so our brain develops.

Another inspirational speaker was "Katy". Katy described living her young life constantly scared and anxious. She was unable to tell anyone how she felt. When Katy did start to tell her teachers and parents, she still hated herself and believed others hated her – reinforced by being bullied at school. She was referred to CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) through which she is learning coping mechanisms and now she is back in control and she knows, with 1 in 4 people suffering from mental health problems, that she is not alone. She ended by saying *"Opening up has been the hardest thing I've ever done – and the best. I'm Katy, I'm 15 and I'm happy"*.



The 86th SIGBI Conference will be hosted by the International Convention Centre, Belfast, 29-31 October 2020. The theme is **"We stand up for Women"**.



SIGBI 86th Federation Conference
ICC Belfast Waterfront, 29-31 October 2020
WE STAND UP FOR WOMEN!

Cotswold Citizen's Advice Bureau



Cirencester SI provided refreshments for an event in the Parish Church in October which raised £3,000 for Cotswold CAB.

Jane Joins



We are delighted to welcome new member Jane Davidson who joined us in October. Jane organised a fundraiser on IWD for young carers.

Soroptimists Raise Cash to Train Kenyan Women



Over 30 guests supported a Garden Party held to support the Meru Women's Garden Project. The Project aims to create sustainable gardening techniques and tools for enabling women to become mentors and pioneers of agricultural sustainability within their community.



Organised by Soroptimist Nikki Pawsey, the aim of the Garden Party was to raise £350 – enough to train two women as mentors. The final total of £560 was enough to train three women which will help achieve long-term change by strengthening Kenyan communities and improving live and opportunities for children and generations to come. Prizes for the grand raffle were donated by many individuals and organisations including Tesco and The Thames Head Inn.

Chamber of Commerce Business Awards 2019



SI Cirencester sponsored the Young Enterprise of the Year award at the Chamber of Commerce Business Awards 2019. This award is aimed at the young entrepreneurs of today who are the business leaders of the future. Judges were looking for entries where a person or team have demonstrated exceptional entrepreneurial skills (creativity, leadership, hard-work, determination, resilience, customer service) in turning a business idea into reality. The category was open to people 25 or under and, as a bright star/stars of the

future, be able to demonstrate balancing enthusiasm with professionalism and a great personality.

The Winner, florist Persephone Violet, has pushed the creative boundaries in her field. With premises in Malmesbury and a team of six, Persephone has grown her business 10-fold since 2017.

Open Meeting



An Open Meeting was held at Bingham House in September. Aimed at spreading the word on who Soroptimists are and what they do, the event was attended by more than 30 people.

In addition to a Ploughman's Supper and wine, attendees were treated to a talk by Shirley Alexander as well as a guest speaker from the Gloucestershire Anti-Slavery Partnership.

Soroptimists Support Macmillan



Members came together to create Christmas decorations that were then sold at the Macmillan Christmas Fayre hosted in the Parish Church in November. The sale of Christmas Decorations and a teddy tombola raised over £250 in support of local charities.

Top attraction were gifts, hand-made by members over 3 days. Spending time together proved as valuable for our wellbeing as it did in creating them.

Christmas Dinner



The Christmas Dinner, held at the Stratton House Hotel, was enjoyed by all. Great food and drink was followed by a taxing quiz before everyone received a present from Secret Santa!

Instead of giving Christmas cards members donated money to our international president's appeal "Women, Water and Leadership".

Happy Birthday

2019

Sep - 4th LH, 14th MP, 16th GW
Oct — 7th NP
Nov — 5th JN
Dec — 14th AB

2020

Jan — 2nd JS
Feb — 21st MM
Mar — 7th EW, 23rd JS, 24th PW



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

<https://twitter.com/cirensorops>