

Important - Have you registered for Conference?

You can register for the NewcastleGateshead Conference 2013 by going to the conference website address www.sigbi.org/gateshead2013 and click on 'Conference Registration' shown in the menu on the left hand side of the screen. You can then choose either to complete the on-line registration form or download the form, complete it manually and send it to Federation Office.

The 'Early Bird' discount is available until 30 June 2013 so do not leave it until the last minute to register – **do it now!**

Educate Empower Enable

Where's all the Action? It's Soroptimist Programme Action!

SIGBI Programme Director Sue Biggs and the Assistant Programme Directors have put together varied and interesting sessions for Saturday 2 November as follows: -

MARY'S MEALS – Daniel Adams



This is the original shed that was used to stockpile food and clothing for Bosnian refugees in the 1990s. It still serves today as Mary's Meals HQ. The idea of providing school-age children with one good meal a day sprang from the simple wish of a 14 year old boy in Malawi whose mother was dying of AIDS. His hope 'to have enough to eat and to go to school one day' struck a chord with Magnus Macfarlane Barrow; if the promise of a meal could lure a child to school then education could offer an escape from dependence.

Mary's Meals now provides for a daily school meal for over 650,000 children in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and Eastern Europe. Hear how it happens from Daniel Adams.

KARMA NIRVANA - Jasvinder Sanghera

Jasvinder is an activist and advocate for women's rights. She is the co-founder of Karma Nirvana, a community based project where several refuge centres across the UK serve as safe-housing for South Asian women fleeing forced marriages.

When faced with the prospect of forced marriage herself she ran away from home.

She told her story in her first novel *Shame* and that of other victims in her second book *Daughters of Shame*. Now happily married with three daughters of her own she ensures that they have enough freedom to date and to find their own husbands.



COMIC RELIEF – Pontso Mafethe



2013 marks 25 years of Comic Relief's Red Nose Day!

Soroptimist Clubs have held events and raised funds that have benefited the work of Comic Relief and helped to change lives across Africa, the UK and the world's poorest countries.

Pontso Mafethe is the Women and Girls Programme Manager at Comic Relief where she has worked for the last ten years. She describes herself as a frontline child; of South African, Zimbabwean and Mozambique parents, born in Zambia and schooled for a time in Botswana. She has a rich and varied professional life and is fiercely passionate about women's rights.

Click on to the web site at
www.sigbi.org/gateshead2013
for further information and
updates

The Royal Shakespeare Company will be appearing at the Theatre Royal, Grey Street for their Newcastle Season from 18 October to 9 November 2013. The production on Friday 1 November 2013 is 'As You Like It' – something for you to do on your free night at Conference.