

## 79<sup>th</sup> SIGBI Federation Conference 31 October to 2 November 2013



### Message from Conference Chairman Margaret Alderson

The final date for registration has passed and we're almost there!

It's hard to believe that it's nearly two and a half years since the Conference Committee embarked on the journey to NewcastleGateshead 2013 and what a journey it has been.

It's been fun, we've laughed and had a few sleepless nights but working together in a spirit of Soroptimist trust has been a truly enriching experience.

President Pat has attended and contributed at several of our meetings and only we know and appreciate how hard she has worked to promote Conference and we share her delight that so many first time attendees will be joining us.

Between us Committee members – from North and South of the Border we have many years of Conference attendance. Did we think we knew it all? Perhaps, but we soon learned differently. We are considerably wiser and a good deal more understanding of those who have gone before us.

So it's time to come and join us, to experience the joy of Conference, catch up with folks you haven't seen since last year, talk to those sitting beside you, befriend a first timer, and play your part in determining our Organisation's future priorities.

Oh! I almost forgot. We don't have exclusive right to the Sage and apparently on the Saturday night just around the time we will be coming to the end of Conference a concert in Hall Two will be coming to an end and the audience are invited to join in for some late-night tango on the Concourse! It sounds like fun and a fitting conclusion - why not plan to join them!

#### Delegate Check-in

For the first time check in will be open from 10:00 am on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October in The Sage Gateshead. Please come early to avoid the rush. Once checked in you will then have more time to explore the numerous riverside attractions

#### Soroptimists See Red About Endometriosis

We are looking forward to seeing you all on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November at 9am on Performance Square which is situated outside the East door of The Sage Gateshead. Please remember to pack something **RED** to wear.

#### REMEMBER

Federation President Pat Black reminds you all to please bring one extra pair of knickers and a pair of men's socks with you. These will be collected and donated to "Under the Bridge" as her legacy to a local charity. This is a very practical legacy which will help lots of people.

#### Chief Conference Maker

#### Dorothy Thomson

#### reminds you

**Soroptimists**

**Meet**

**Inspire**

**Lead**

**Encourage**

Please come to conference

prepared to **SMILE!**

#### Important information

There will be no live streaming this year however blogs on each session of Conference will be available on the Conference website daily.

Click on to the web site at [www.sigbi.org/gateshead2013](http://www.sigbi.org/gateshead2013) for further information and updates

Conference now has its own Facebook page named SIGBI Conference 2013 [www.facebook.com/pages/SIGBI-Conference-2013/358047067629508?fref=ts](http://www.facebook.com/pages/SIGBI-Conference-2013/358047067629508?fref=ts)

Keep up to date with President Pat's activities and Conference progress.

#### **From Patricia Gatherum Conference Vice Chairman - Attention all Gruffalo Hunters !**

I met a small mouse just a week ago and he told me that there will be more than one Gruffalo at our Conference on 1 & 2 November. So keep your eyes peeled and you just might be lucky enough to take one home.