

Honorary Secretary's Report Shona Darling

Well, there's nothing like being thrown in at the deep end...within two weeks of becoming a member of the club I had become Honorary Secretary!

It's been a busy year. As Secretary I get the chance to liaise on a regular basis with members from Club and Region and Federation.

CLUB - it has been fascinating to see the key role SIG plays in the community – during the year this included attendance at the Waste Management Strategy meetings, preparing baskets for Maison St Pierre and the Women's Refuge, supporting the Bereavement Centre (by tidying the gardens and supporting and attending the Clothes Sales) and submitting questions to the States Members.

Once you become a Soroptimist your diary certainly fills up quickly. There were lots of events throughout the year including the Pink Ladies Walk, President Zoë's Friendship Weekend (which epitomised the British summer – a sunny day in Herm followed by a VERY rainy day at Angela's), a memorable boat crossing back from the Lessay Fair in France, Creasey's Shopping Evening, Annual Quiz, In Their Shoes Exhibition, Christmas Charities Fair, breakfast at the Cotils with Advocate Louise Hall for International Women's Day and linking up with the Guides for Water Aid's 'p in a pot'.

These events resulted in lots of money being raised with £200 each being distributed to 9 charities in Guernsey, Alderney and Vietnam - Philippi Counselling Service, An Vien, Affray Submarine Memorial trust, Bridge Youth Centre, Maison St Pierre, Women's Refuge, Homestart, Guernsey Cheshire Home and Girl Guiding Guernsey as well as £250 going to the Bereavement Centre.

REGION - we had Mary McNaughton visit to present a very interesting talk on "Building the future for Soroptimism". As the youngest member in SIG I take a great interest in this hot topic! Various members also attended the Regional meetings in Taunton and the AGM at Buckfast Abbey.

FEDERATION - the club continued to support Project Sierra throughout the year, 9 of our members went to Conference at Brighton where SIGBI launched "Educate to Lead – Educate, Empower and Enable" and Jenny attended the International Convention in Montreal. I was kept busy throughout the year ensuring the club voted on key matters, the most exciting of which was to decide the International President Elect. Our vote went to Ann Garvie (a Scot!) and she won the ballot. And finally, the new Soroptimist logo, the Dynamic S was launched in February this year.

Phew, what a year. And my personal highlight? Making my broadcasting debut on BBC Radio Guernsey to help spread the news about SI Guernsey and Soroptimism!

FUND RAISING and CHARITY WORK

Event	Amount Raised	Project
Plant Sale	£198.40	Friendship W/E
Friendship W/E	£144.50	General Charities
Donkey Derby	£252.12	Project Sierra
Swimathon	£369..50	Swimathon
2000 Club Win	£50	Diamond Education Grant
Creasey's Evening	£964	Local Charities
Annual Quiz	£1653.50	President's Charity
Charities Fayre	£776.82	General Charities
Christmas Raffle	£151.50	Birthing In The Pacific
Supper Raffles	£360	General Charities
Girlguiding Talk	£525.06	Water Aid cf 2012-13
Tea party	£206.20	Operation Shoebox
Bridge Afternoon	£420	Operation Shoebox
P in a Pot	£220	Water Aid

Charity	Donation
President's Charity—The Caves Youth Project	£1653.50
Swimathon	£369.50
Bereavement Centre	£250
Affray Memorial Trust	£200
An Vien Trust	£200
Bridge Youth Centre	£200
Cheshire Home	£200
Girl Guiding Guernsey	£200
Homestart	£200
Maison St Pierre	£200 /baskets
Phillipi	£200
Women's Refuge	£200 /baskets
Diamond Education Grant	£50
Birthing in the Pacific	£151.50
Project Sierra	£479.24
Operation Shoebox	10 boxes
Water Aid	£220
RNLI	£62

Soroptimist International Guernsey

Annual Report



President Zoë Grainger April 2012

Where has the year gone? I cannot believe it is a year since our 2011 AGM, when I took office; the time has flown by and yet I do believe we as a club have achieved a great deal, as you will remember, reading through the Convenor reports and this summary. I am not going to list all our activities here; that has been ably done elsewhere in this report. I will instead reflect on where we are as a club, some highlights of my year and include many 'thank you's'. I have enjoyed the year much more than I anticipated!

During the year we have continued to work hard on our membership numbers; sadly, although we have recruited 5 new members, we have lost 8 members for a number of reasons. Shirley, our Membership Secretary, has worked very quietly but has done a stalwart job in maintaining contact and hosting small welcome events to new and prospective members—thank you Shirley.

In the autumn of 2011 founder member and inaugural President, Gwen Renouf MBE, passed away; although I had never met her, it was an honour to speak about her and her role in our club at the Regional meeting in November. As her obituary in SI magazine stated "Gwen gave of her talents freely and was a true Soroptimist, of whom Guernsey is justly proud".

Personally, the Soroptimist year began at a very busy and emotional time for me. My father had unexpectedly passed away at the end of February and I was busy supporting my mother and sister. In a way the busy-ness helped; I didn't have time to think. I attended my first Regional meeting early in May, thankfully supported by Pam Kedge, who showed me the ropes. However, at my first meeting it was Guernsey's 'turn' to give a 5 minute presentation on our club's work to 'transform lives'. Fortunately, I was the first of 4 clubs presenting, and luckily, I had visited SI Yeovil, Sherborne and District's Charter weekend in March, so had a few friendly faces in the room!

No sooner was I back from Taunton, than it seemed that my Friendship Weekend was upon us. That was one of the many highlights of my year; I hope everyone else enjoyed the salsa dancing, lunch in Herm complete with hats, and the companionship of the washed out Sunday lunch at Angela's home! Certainly, then Regional President Mary (McNaughton) included the weekend in the highlights of her year. Huge thanks to everyone for supporting the weekend, but particular thanks to the organising committee of Pam K, Pam W, Julia, Shirley, Kate, Cherry and especially Angela (and John) for their generous hospitality. It was delightful to welcome so many guests from other clubs.

Throughout the year, our Convenors, Kate and Sarah; Jenny; Angela; and Cherry have all worked conscientiously to plan and co-ordinate our most important work—programme action. All have achieved what they set out to do at the beginning of the year. Well done and thank you! The strength of our club is our membership and you have all played your role in getting involved—we couldn't achieve half of what we do without that commitment from each and every member. I must say a big thank you to Pam Kedge, who has been Programme Action Officer for many years; again quietly completing programme focus forms to submit to Region/Federation and attending many Regional meetings over the years. Thank you Pam!

I can highly recommend attending Region meetings and Federation Conferences as a means of truly appreciating the regional, national and global influence of Soroptimism. Thank you for the opportunity I have had to represent you as President this year. Finally, thank you to the executive committee, many of whom were newly in place—Shirley as treasurer and Shona as Secretary—you have made my job as President much smoother and your support has been fantastic. Good luck Kate!

Women, Health and Education Convenor: Cherry McMillen

The H and E committee perceive they have had an enjoyable year working together as a committee. They were actively involved in instigating and organising the annual quiz to raise funds for the President's charity and in addition organised the Soroptimist table at the Christmas Charities Fayre – again fund raising for club charitable funds. In relation to both of those events the committee acknowledge the huge help and input from other club members – real team efforts.

For programme action they deliberated and decided that they wished to raise awareness relating to water issues which they regarded as of particular relevance to women. They have been responsible for organising “the P in pot “ initiative to raise awareness on this issue and some funds for water aid.

Finally they also had a couple of suppers together –with the combined aim of having a committee meeting in more enjoyable circumstances and also to get to know each other better.



Women As Achievers Convenor: Angela Webster

Looking back there appears to a strong catering theme to our year on the Women as Achievers Committee.

In August Cathy Bailey again organised a Soroptimist stall at the Donkey Derby selling cakes as our last fundraiser for Project Sierra. Unfortunately takings were down to £227.12 this time, due mainly we think to a restriction on the type of foods we were permitted to offer and we may wish to reconsider our attendance in 2012.



On 3rd November Creasey's kindly opened their premises to us for a shopping evening which raised £964 for local charities. We were able again to raise our profile at this enjoyable evening and are grateful to the store for providing ticket holders with wine, 10% discount and raffle prizes.

Later in November committee members joined with those from Jenny's committee to provide food for the quiz.

International Women's Day, 8th March, a breakfast was organised at Les Cotils when Advocate Louise Hall spoke of case histories in the UK involving women who had had the courage to stand up for their rights and had taken their cases through courts of law – with mixed results. This was organised to raise awareness and no profit was made.

Women and Peacebuilding Convenors: Kate Raleigh and Sarah Lees

Much of our committee's year has been based around Operation Shoebox, sending small gifts to the women serving in the peacekeeping forces in Afghanistan. A garden tea party was held in Sue Hollway's beautiful home to cover the costs of a small luxury for each box, and thanks to the endeavours and generosity of various members there were enough items to put together the first 10 shoeboxes that Zoe took over for us.

A Bridge Tea Party at St Mary's Church Hall in March raised a pleasing £400 toward the costs of filling and transporting a further 50 boxes that Angela will take over in June. The whole club seems to have supported this project.



Another successful project, organised by Adele, was the week of Thought for Today on Radio Guernsey involving many club members.



Women and Equality Convenor: Jenny Tasker

The Women and Equality Committee worked hard to prepare for the 'In Their Shoes' exhibition to mark the International day to eliminate Violence against Women by ensuring the venue was confirmed, sentences were written, invitations sent and setting up and taking down was organised. The exhibition was well supported by the public throughout the week and there was good publicity gained in the media about it and the need for such information to be in the wider domain.



Club members knitted tiny hats for premature babies in Afghanistan for our Friendship Link Si Stockport; over 70 hats have been sent so far. A number of the hats were white and unsuitable for Afghanistan, so these were sent to the local stillborn baby support group. We also cleaned the beach at Ladies Bay as part of the Environment department's annual beach clean, recording all our findings.

The Committee suggested that a series of questions should be devised for candidates in the General Election and a small group was formed in the Club to carry out this task. The results should be interesting! The Club received responses from 52 of the 77 candidates standing for election and these were discussed at our April business meeting in our electoral districts.

Assistance with the Annual Quiz in arranging for much of the food and its preparation was another role in which members played an active part. Support was given throughout the year to such events as the Donkey Derby and the Charities Fair.