

## TRAFFICKING OF YOUNG WOMEN AND CHILDREN

In 2004 – 05, we ran a year-long project to raise awareness of the Trafficking of young women and children at a time when most people didn't like to talk about it. This included much lobbying of our local MPs, a visit to the House of Commons, and a one-day seminar. As a result of our work, we were thrilled and honoured to receive the *Good Practice Award for Human Rights and the Status of Women* at the 2005 SIGBI Conference. In 2017 we organised a pop-up shop in the town centre for International Women's Day collecting pre-loved bras for the Purple Teardrop Campaign which supports survivors of trafficking. A further pop-up shop in 2018 saw us encouraging local people to decorate squares for the Global Blanket Campaign against forced labour and human trafficking in supply chains.

## ANNUAL PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION FOR YEAR 6 PUPILS

In 2007, we held our first Public Speaking Competition for Year 6 pupils. Each team consists of three pupils who introduce their chosen subject, present a reasoned argument, summarise, and give a vote of thanks – no mean feat for such young people. The topics reflect Soroptimist interests and ideals, and each year, we are amazed at the maturity and thoughtfulness of the children. In 2018 we celebrated our 10th competition.

## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

In June 2010, in partnership with West Norfolk Voluntary and Community Action, we held a forum on Domestic Abuse. More recently we have been involved with 'Norfolk Says No' and the White Ribbon campaign which we promoted at the local football club.

## ANNUAL LITERARY LUNCH

In 2011, we held the first of our Literary Lunches, in the Riverside Restaurant in King's Lynn with guest authors Sophie Hannah and Jim Kelly.

It was so successful that we had to move to a larger venue the following year, the Le Strange Arms in Old Hunstanton. Our speakers have ranged from Dame Stella Rimington to Elly Griffiths, and, on looking through the list, it seems we Soroptimists do enjoy crime novels! Last year our guest writer was Alison Bruce, author of the much acclaimed DC Gary Goodhew series set in Cambridge.

## WOMEN'S WELLBEING DAY

In October 2014, we held a Women's WellBeing Day at Lynnsport. Topics covered included healthy eating; keeping safe; reflexology, massage and reiki; pilates, and many more. Club members were very keen on manicures, and we sported some very elegant finger-nails!

## ENGLISH LESSONS

In recent years, King's Lynn has seen a great increase in migrant workers. Members have supported them by helping with English lessons on Saturday afternoons. The sessions are essentially practical, and include useful vocabulary for common situations, and include plenty of opportunities for conversation.

## CHARITIES AND FUNDRAISING

Over the years, we have organised and been involved in a wide range of events to support our chosen charities. These have included: market stalls, Christmas Fairs, jumble sales, quizzes, bridge drives, concerts, fashion shows, serving refreshments at the biennial Scarecrow Weekend in a nearby village – and in 2015, in partnership with a local Rotary Club, a very glitzy May Ball and Auction of Promises, to raise money for HomeStart. We've supported local, national and international charities including West Norfolk Carers; BAFROW, a charity in The Gambia which supports women's health and works against FGM; Albaraca Nursery School, also in The Gambia; Project Sierra; and Mission With A Vision, a safe house in Kenya, which provides education for girls and a refuge from forced marriage and FGM. Thanks to the voluntary nursing by former Club and Regional President Maggie Orage, we supported St Gabriel's Hospital and a school in Malawi, and this grew into a three year Regional Project. One of the charities we supported in 2017, The Pelandaba Orphans, has now been adopted as the current Regional project.

## CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

Holocaust Memorial Day: at the annual service in the Town Hall, a Club member, usually the President, gives one of the readings. Remembrance Sunday: our President lays a poppy wreath, in Tower Gardens and, after the ceremony, she and some members join the civic procession to The Minster for a service.

*Club history originally compiled by Lindsay Campbell  
Updated June 2018*



## SI King's Lynn

- Enjoy the company of women who like to make a difference
- Create a better world through international friendships
- Get involved with projects to educate, empower and enable women and girls

## Interested?

Get in touch and you will receive a warm welcome as a guest at one of our meetings

**sikingslynn@gmail.com**

**www.sigbi.org/kings-lynn**



## 2018-2019

### President

Kim Bramham

### Immediate Past President

Ghyslaine Clarke

### President Elect

Janet Porter/Lynis Lord

### Founder Members

Pat Robinson and  
Elizabeth Harrison

### Charities 2018-2019

#### Parkinson's UK

*(President's charity)*

#### Home - Start Norfolk

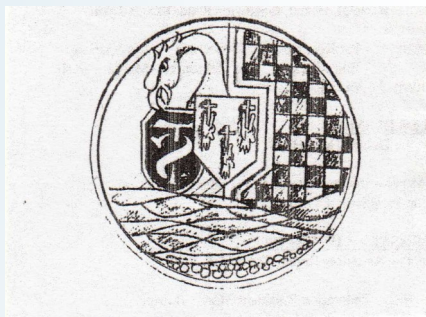
#### The Pelandaba Orphans

*(Regional project)*

#### Meru Women's Garden Project

*(Federation project)*

## Soroptimist International of King's Lynn A brief history 1975 – 2018



### THE CHARTER

Our petition was accepted at a meeting of the Federation Executive Council on 7 December 1974. There were 27 founder members. The King's Lynn Club was proposed by SI Norwich, our Mother Club, and seconded by SI Peterborough.

### THE CHARTER DINNER

12 July 1975, at the Duke's Head Hotel, King's Lynn  
The Charter was presented by Federation President Ruth Harris.  
Divisional Union President: Cara Watson

### 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON

13 July 1985, in the Assembly Room, Town Hall, King's Lynn  
Guest of Honour: Federation President Muriel Bowers  
Divisional Union President: Kathleen Hunter

### 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY DINNER

8 July 2000 in the Assembly Room, Town Hall, King's Lynn  
Guest of Honour: Federation President Elizabeth Harrison (SI King's Lynn)  
Regional President: Julie Carter (SI King's Lynn)

### 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON

5 July 2015 in the Assembly Room, Town Hall, King's Lynn  
Guest of Honour: The Rt Hon Baroness Gillian Shephard  
Regional President: Cathy Cottridge

### THE FEDERATION – SIGBI

Members have attended every Federation Conference since 1975, and also some Soroptimist International Conferences. Elizabeth Harrison was Federation Health Advisor 1991 – 1995, and elected Federation President 1999 – 2000.

### LONDON ANGLIA REGION - SILAR

SI King's Lynn has taken an active part in the Region (formerly Divisional Union) over the past forty years. Elizabeth Harrison, Julie Carter, Maggie Orage and Sylvia Cliffe have all been Regional Presidents, and many Club members have held Regional Office.

### PROJECTS, ACTIVITIES AND CHARITIES

Just a taste of what we've been doing over the last forty plus years...

### THE HOUSING PROJECT

Our first charitable project. In 1979, the Club rented two bedsits and a one bedroom flat from Broadland Housing Association, furnished them, and let them to young people coming to work in King's Lynn. By 1995, there was plenty of suitable accommodation locally, and the project closed.

### LINK CLUBS

We have formed strong Friendship Links with Clubs in Waimea (New Zealand), Waterland (The Netherlands), Amber Valley (Alfreton), Solihull & District, Pune (India), Lubeck (Germany) and Krakow (Poland). We have welcomed members from these clubs, and our members have greatly enjoyed exchange visits.

### HANDICRAFT PROJECT AT ST EDMUND'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Enid Bright and Rachel Seakins started this project in 1993, and Nora Harding, Pam Benefer and Diane Morgan joined them. On Tuesday lunchtimes, a group of Year 5 pupils learned to knit and sew under the guidance of the "Knitting Nannies," as they were affectionately known. The club has recently continued the tradition by knitting baby clothes for the SIGBI Meru Women's Garden Project.

### WOMEN'S REFUGES

Since 1997, we have collected toiletries, personal items, toys and games for the women and their children, who have to leave home at short notice.