

Welcome From Our Presidents – Janet and Liz

Dear Members,

As we begin a new year, we would like to reflect on the many happy and memorable moments from our recent months in office. From our lunch at the Cottage Loaf in October, kindly organised by Cynthia and Pam, to our visit to Chester Cathedral to admire the Christmas trees and enjoy the market, there have been so many opportunities to enjoy each other's company.

We were also privileged to hear from Gerrie Bayley about the situation in Ukraine, and we were pleased to present a donation of £250, which will be put to very good use to support women and children in need.

The festive season brought more cheer, with our Christmas party at the cricket club and a wonderful response from members at the gifts for the refuge evening, where the ladies left with a car full of gifts and a generous donation. Thank you all for your kindness and generosity — it truly makes a difference.

Finally, a few of us enjoyed the South Caernarfonshire Club carol service and lunch at Portmeirion, a lovely day despite the less-than-perfect weather.

It has been a joy to serve as your Presidents and to witness the warmth, energy, and friendship that our club shares. As always, a lovely day (although the weather wasn't lovely!!). At least it was rain not snow!) We look forward to another year of camaraderie, service, and happy occasions together.

Warm wishes,
Janet and Liz



Club News & Speaker Evenings

Our Christmas party in Rhos on Sea was a great success and enjoyed by all who attended.



In November we welcomed Sam Hodkins, who gave a very informative presentation on Dementia Awareness. We are pleased to say that all members present are now recognised as Dementia Friends.



At our January speaker meeting, Nia Higginbotham gave a fascinating talk about 'Grandmothers Peace' and the 1923 Women of Wales Peace Appeal.



Following this, Rhian H carried out further research through the National Library of Wales Peace Petition archive. Although searching is not straightforward, she was able to access signatures from <https://peacepetition.library.wales/> and found one of her great grandmothers; her mother was very touched to see her Nain's signature.

Programme Action & Community Impact

Our Programme Action work continues to be at the heart of everything we do.

Poppies Appeal – Money from the poppy collections is still coming in. It has been encouraging to see greater awareness of Soroptimists when out and about collecting.

Christmas Gifts for the Refuge – This year we bought a range of gifts suitable for all ages, allowing the refuge staff to use them as needed. Thank you to everyone who supported this.



Pyjama Appeal – Sadly, this did not go ahead this year due to changes at the charity involved. Instead money was raised for Christmas Pyjamas for the Refuge Children.

Microloans – We are pleased to report that the three women we support through microloans in Kenya, Ecuador and Pakistan are all doing well and keeping up with their repayments.

We are delighted to welcome a **new borrower, Maria from Ecuador**, who runs a farming business and employs **13 people**.

Clothing Bank – club volunteers from the Clothing Bank held a Christmas Sparkle event at a local school. They were helped by a volunteer from the Sanctuary Trust.



We are delighted that:

- Our clothing bank now has a new sign which includes the club's name.
- We have been awarded £300 from the Police and Crime Commissioner Community Christmas Fund to purchase additional stock.



Fundraising and Events

International Women's Day Coffee Morning

To mark **International Women's Day**, we will be holding a **coffee morning on Saturday 7 March, 10.30–12.00**, at Holy Trinity Church Hall.

Tea, coffee and biscuits: £2

Funds raised will go towards Women for Women International.

As part of the celebration, we will be highlighting **inspirational women** from our local area and sharing **quotes from women past and present**. Ukrainian women learning English locally will also be invited to join us, making this a wonderful opportunity for friendship and connection.

Members are kindly asked to bring cakes or scones if they can. Help on the day will be very much appreciated.

Grand Event for Maggie's – 19th March

Preparations continue for our **Grand Event for Maggie's on 19 March at Llandrillo College**, and we are delighted to report some excellent progress.

We have received a very generous **£500 donation from Colwyn Bay Football Club**, thanks to a contact through Pam Farr. We currently have **around 20 auction items**, but further donations would be very welcome, and members are encouraged to have a look through cupboards and attics for suitable items.

Helpers will also be needed on **19 March** to assist with transporting auction items to Llandrillo College, and any support on the day would be greatly appreciated.

The photo shows Celia collecting a £50 voucher for the Auction from Summer Baker, the new manager of Clare's Department Store, who is keen to support future charity events.



Regional and Federation News

Our new **Federation President** is Gillian O'Rourke.

The **SIGBI Conference** will be held in Cardiff on **30–31 October 2026**.

The next **Regional Meeting** will take place on **21 March** at the Queen Hotel, Chester.

Members voted unanimously to support **Sue Williams** as the SIGBI nominee for President.

Our sincere thanks go to Pat for her six years of service as the Regional Secretary. Her dedication and hard work have been greatly appreciated by everybody.

Janet is sharing a presidential year with Kath Lewis and Melynda has taken on the role of Regional Programme Action Officer.

The Tombola at the Regional Meeting raised £83 for SIGBI charities.



Friendship Links

Jane has confirmed that our **Friendship Links are continuing**, and she is happy to carry on in this role for the time being. Our thanks to Jane for continuing in her role overseeing the Friendship Links.

Member News

We are pleased to share that **Heather Rimmer is much improved** and sends her very best wishes to all members.

Looking Ahead - Dates for the Diary

February

26th – Speaker at Holy Trinity Church Hall: Claire Hodgkinson on Misogyny

March

1st - Annual Charter Lunch- Imperial Hotel

7th- Coffee Morning at Holy Trinity Church Hall

19th - Grand Event for Maggie's at Llandrillo College

21st - Regional Meeting Queens Hotel Chester

April

10th - Fashion Show at Meliden Golf Club in support of Ukraine

Presidential Handover

Janet and Liz formally handed over the Presidents' chain to Mary and Sue for their forthcoming joint Presidency.

We thank Janet and Liz for their commitment over the last 3 months and warmly welcome Mary and Sue to their new roles.



Thank You!

As this is our first newsletter of the year, we would like to wish everyone a very happy, healthy and peaceful 2026.

We look forward to the months ahead and to continuing our work together in a spirit of friendship, kindness and mutual support – supporting women and girls locally and globally.

We hope the coming year will bring many opportunities to enjoy each other's company while continuing to serve our community both locally and further afield.

With friendship,

SI Llandudno & District Presidents and Officers

Women inspiring action, transforming lives.