

**Welcome From Our Presidents – Mary & Sue**

Dear Members,

The year began with our first officers' meeting on 8th January, followed by a well-attended Business Meeting on the 15th, despite the cold evening. It was lovely to see so many members there, and plans were soon underway for our **International Women's Day coffee morning**, with offers of help and baking very much appreciated.

A particular highlight of these past months has been the **Grand Event for Maggie's on 19th March**. This regional fundraising evening was a wonderful success, with around 80 tickets sold and an impressive **£4,000 raised**. Our sincere thanks go to **Melynda and her team** for all their hard work in organising the event, including the raffle and auction, and to all members for their generous support. It was a truly enjoyable evening and a great example of what can be achieved when we work together.

At the end of January, we enjoyed a most interesting talk from **Nia Higginbotham** on the Welsh Women's Peace Movement. It was both moving and inspiring to hear how women across Wales came together to create the remarkable peace petition.

Our February Business Meeting, chaired by Mary, gave us the opportunity to look ahead to both the **Charter Lunch** and our International Women's Day celebrations. Later in the month, we were pleased to welcome **Claire Hodgkinson** from the Women's Refuge. Her thoughtful and informative talk on misogyny and domestic abuse gave us much to reflect upon.

On **1st March**, we celebrated **St David's Day** with our 64th Charter Lunch at the Imperial Hotel. Although numbers were slightly lower than usual, it was a very enjoyable occasion, with thanks to all who contributed, including the beautiful hand-knitted daffodils and table arrangements.

Our **International Women's Day Coffee Morning on 7th March** was a great success. Blessed with a lovely spring day, it was well attended and had a warm, welcoming atmosphere. The cakes were thoroughly enjoyed, the tombola was busy, and it was especially nice to see new faces and make connections within the community.

Towards the end of March, we were treated to an engaging and relaxing talk from our own member, **Sue Roberts**, who introduced us to Somatics and guided us through some gentle exercises and breathing techniques, which were much appreciated by all.

It has been a pleasure to share these past few months with you, and we thank everyone for their support, enthusiasm and friendship.

With warm regards,

Mary and Sue



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**Club News & Speaker Evenings**

**Winter has been a busy and engaging time for the club**, with well-attended meetings and a variety of interesting speakers.

**Nia Higginbotham** spoke about the Women's Peace Appeal, providing a thought-provoking perspective on peace initiatives in



Wales.

Claire Hodgkinson, conducting PhD research on domestic abuse, gave an insightful and informative talk.



We were also fortunate to listen to a gentle wellbeing session on Stepping into Spring with Somatics from our own member, **Sue Roberts**, which many found most relaxing and enjoyable.

The **64th Charter Lunch at the Imperial Hotel** was well attended, with 36 members joining in the celebration.



*Club Presidents Mary and Sue with Regional Presidents Janet and Kath*

The 19 March Grand Event raised over £4,000 for Maggie's Centre. Thanks to Melynda, her team, and all members for their support.



*Table Setting and Menu at the Grand Event*



*Raffle and Auction Prizes*



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## ***Programme Action & Community Impact***

Our Programme Action work continues to support women and communities both locally and further afield.

- Funds raised through our **International Women's Day Coffee Morning** have supported **Women for Women International** and **Lend With Care**, helping women to build more secure futures.
- We have also continued our support for Ukraine and other community projects, working alongside regional initiatives where possible.

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## ***Fundraising and Events***

Winter activities have been well supported and successful.

Our **International Women's Day Coffee Morning (7<sup>th</sup> March)** was a great success, raising over £360 and providing a welcoming space for members and guests to come together. It has been suggested that this may become a regular annual event.

- £310 has been sent to Women for Women as the amount will be doubled.
- £50 has gone to Lend with Care to fund a lady in Ecuador who is a maize farmer.



Members were sorry to hear of the passing of Pam Dowell, a Soroptimist member from Heswall club, and our thoughts are with her family and friends.

The next Regional meeting will take place on Saturday 4th July at White House Hotel, Rhualt.

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### ***Friendship Links***

Our Friendship Links continue to be maintained, and it is always encouraging to know that our connections with Soroptimist friends abroad remain strong.

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### ***Member News***

It is always lovely to see members supporting one another and taking part in club activities.

We are pleased to report possible interest from a prospective new member, and we continue to welcome opportunities to grow our club.

As always, we send our good wishes to any members who may have been unwell and hope to see them again soon.

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### ***Looking Ahead - Dates for the Diary***

#### **April**

**9th April** – PSG Meeting

**10th April** – Fashion Show (Meliden Golf Club – Helping Hand for Ukraine)

**16th April** – **AGM, Imperial Hotel 6:30pm**

#### **May**

**6th May** - Theatre Trip: *Fawlty Towers*- £45

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### ***Presidential Handover***

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Mary and Sue for their dedication, leadership, and hard work



£50 was also raised at the Coffee Morning from selling of knitted items by Caroline's friend.

Members have also contributed to other fundraising efforts, including support for **Tenovus** and ongoing charitable initiatives where Sandra's daffodils made £229.

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### ***Regional and Federation News***

Members attending the **Regional Council Meeting in March** heard encouraging updates on the success of the **Lend With Care** microloan scheme, which continues to support women and communities worldwide.

We were also impressed that the region Grand Event raised **£4,000**, for the Maggie's Cancer Support Centre at Glan Clwyd Hospital, a wonderful achievement.



*Melynda (Regional PA) and Janet (Regional President) at fundraiser for Maggie's Cancer Support Centre at Glan Clwyd.*

during their time as Presidents. Their commitment, enthusiasm, and support for our members and community have been truly appreciated, and they have guided the club through a busy and successful period.

As we look ahead to the coming months, we are delighted to welcome Pam and Cynthia as they take on the role of Presidents. We wish them every success and look forward to supporting them as they lead us into a new season of activity, growth, and friendship.

With spring bringing fresh energy and new beginnings, we are excited for all that lies ahead for our club.

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### ***Thank You!***

As we move out of the winter months and into the brighter days of spring, there is a real sense of renewal and optimism ahead. With longer days, warmer weather, and new opportunities on the horizon, we look forward to an exciting and active season for our club.

We are excited to continue working together in a spirit of friendship, kindness and mutual support – making a difference for women and girls both locally and globally.

We hope the coming months bring plenty of opportunities to connect, celebrate, and enjoy each other's company, whether at meetings, events, or simply spending time together.

With summer just around the corner, we look forward to all that lies ahead and to building on the wonderful momentum we have created together.

With friendship,

**SI Llandudno & District Presidents and Officers**

*Women inspiring action, transforming lives.*