



Soroptimist International London Chilterns Region 2024

Inspirational Clubs and their Projects



Photo from the Region's International Women's Day event
Knebworth House March 2024, "Celebrating Inspirational Women".

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Foreword - Celebrating Inspirational Women

Dear Sisters,

It is my absolute pleasure to write this foreword as the President of London Chilterns Region. When I first joined Soroptimist International, I was impressed by my Club's Members, their stories, their career paths with some of them being pioneers in their chosen world of work and there are many legacies from their contributions and achievements. Hence my theme for the year is "***Celebrating Inspirational Women***". We have our very own inspirational women, and we should celebrate their achievements and their support of women and girls through numerous and diverse actions to improve and enhance the lives of our sisters who are less fortunate than ourselves.

Then I got to know other Members from other Clubs within the region and at conferences. This is why I feel honoured and privileged as the Region's President to promote what and how we have achieved working in our Clubs to raise awareness of Soroptimist values and ethos to match the local needs. Each Club, working to its strengths, has designed and delivered so many activities and projects as part of our of Programme Action, which in turn supports the overarching Soroptimist International Programme Action to underpin the 17 United Nations Strategic Development Goals.

What joy it is that each Club has responded to my aspiration of having a Regional "brochure" of our diverse accomplishments and our working together with our local partners to help our designated/adopted female based support groups/communities with resources to maintain their sustainability and support the desperate needs of the women and girls in the community.

My thanks to each Club, without you this brochure would not have been produced, for sending in projects for inclusion in this brochure and brilliant photos. I must thank Jane Slatter for collating and compiling the entire brochure with such ease and proficiency. I am also extremely fortunate to have such a supportive Executive team, who have embraced this idea with enthusiasm.

I congratulate each one of you and the work you do for and within your club for the women and girls.

Enjoy the read..... you should be very proud. 😊

Kate Belinis DL

President of London Chilterns Region

SI London Chilterns Region

Specialist Domestic Abuse Courts (SDAC) Observation Project

SI London Chilterns Region is very proud to have been part of the independent review across England of how Specialist Domestic Abuse Courts should be improved for victims of abuse, the majority of whom are women.

At the behest of Dame Vera Baird (former Victims' Commissioner), SI Greater London headed up the London Collective to cover courts in the capital, while Clubs throughout the rest of our Region ensured that observations were carried out in courts across the Thames Valley, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Police areas.

Our members devoted many hours to attending Domestic Abuse courts, completing and submitting questionnaires in order to inform this valuable document, published in July 2023.

Together with Soroptimist Members across the country, we worked as independent observers to give the public confidence in our courts, but we also wanted to drive improvement, and our recommendations seek to help build public trust in our justice system.

Clubs across the Region work with organisations supporting victims of domestic abuse and continue to follow up on this important review guided by the Federation's Programme Action.



SI Aylesbury

Supporting Aylesbury Women's Refuge and Tree Planting

Working closely with Aylesbury Women's Aid, SI Aylesbury & District Club has been providing vital support to women and children fleeing domestic violence and abuse at the local Women's Refuge for over 22 years. On average 30 women and children stay in the Refuge each year and therefore this longstanding project has supported over 600 victims of gender-based violence.

Each year we have provided much needed bed linen and duvets, towels, kitchenware, crockery, cutlery and clothes (particularly bed clothes and underwear for the women and children). We have raised funds to replace carpets in the Refuge and planted a flowering cherry tree in the garden to mark SI's centenary. To celebrate the work of staff running the Refuge we nominated the CEO, April Benson for Buckinghamshire Women in Charity Awards in 2021, in recognition of her outstanding leadership at the charity and were thrilled that she won.



It was the first time April had been recognised after many years of work at the Refuge and it was a wonderful tribute to her dedication and professionalism. It also raised awareness of the work Women's Aid do locally for victims of domestic abuse and helped them secure more funding from local charities.

Since 2014 we have been able to provide tickets for all the families staying at the Refuge over Christmas to attend a pantomime at the local theatre. This has been possible through our annual fundraising events. For many families this is the first time they have been able to go out together to enjoy this kind of entertainment and it is always much appreciated.

We invite April to give an annual report to the Club and check what support the women and families need. As a result, we have started to provide gift cards (10 so far) for a local supermarket which can be given to women who are waiting to receive financial support and would otherwise be unable to purchase essential items, such as personal hygiene and sanitary products. Over the past 2 years we have also provided 9 Moving Bags which contain essential household cleaning items packed into a bag for life and are given to women moving out of the refuge into permanent accommodation.



SI Bedford

Soroptimist Housing Association

SI Bedford was Chartered in October 1931, and its first large project was to set up a Housing Association for **"Single occupancy accommodation for ladies of reduced means"** and we still actively fulfil that vision.



A Potted History

- With the aid of an anonymous donation of £200, fund raising started in 1934; events included a Summer Garden Party, a Ball, Roulette Parties, a Midnight Film Matinee, and a Darts Championship!
- A plot of land was purchased in Clapham, a village 3 miles from Bedford, and plans drawn up by a local architect; a builder was contracted; an additional £700 was borrowed from the bank: this was paid back in full in 1944.
- **The Clapham House Foundation Stone was laid in 1938** by the Hon. Mrs. Michael Boyes-Lyon, for a high standard building with 4 bedsits.
- **The House was opened in 1939**, and 4 ladies moved in ~ all newly retired who had lived in work tied housing including a district nurse and village schoolteacher.
- The House was extended in 2000 to make into 4 self-contained flats funded by a legacy.
- **A Second House in Bedford** was obtained in 1965; this is an Edwardian House with 8 units.

Background Information

The two houses provide safe accommodation for ladies with limited income.

We charge an affordable rent for good standard of accommodation: annually we plan to make a small trading profit to ensure we can maintain a good state of repair and refurbishment, meeting building regulations and the legal requirements of a good landlord.

For many years, the Housing Committee were responsible for all operational management. A decision was made in the 1990's to introduce letting via an agent. Ten years ago we took the next step and negotiated with the agent for them to carry out day to day management

on our behalf ~ as a housing committee we still have ultimate management control but do not have to sort out blocked toilets on Christmas Eve!!

Our tenants are a mix of retired ladies and younger working women: these include two teaching assistants, an NHS clerical officer, a charity worker working with children from abusive homes and a mature Methodist Minister. Regularly we have women as medium term lets fleeing abusive marriages: the ladies at both houses are a close-knit supportive community.

The COVID restrictions were difficult for everyone: we pegged the rents for all our tenants: during lockdown 2 tenants were furloughed and we were able to agree rent packages with both unable to meet their full financial commitments ~ reduced rent for 6 months meant they could pay their bills and eat; they were able to pay the rent balance over an agreed period

Bedford Soroptimist Housing Association was one of the first to be established and remains one of only a handful still functioning. It has evolved over the years to meet changing needs but still fulfils **the founding aims of providing safe good standard accommodation for single women with a limited income.**

SI Hertford & District Wine Into Water Evening – raising funds for Water Aid

It all began at Conference in 2009 when, to mark 75 years of SIGBI, President Jackie challenged clubs to hold an event on or around March 22nd (World Water Day) to raise £75 for WaterAid (75 for 75). We took up the challenge and asked our members and friends not to spend a penny between November and March 2010 when we held a tea party, pooled our pennies and raised a wonderful £243.43.



Following this, we invited a representative from WaterAid to talk to our club about how, with clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene, women and girls can unlock their potential and thrive.



In 2012, we held the first of what has become an annual event – our Wine into Water evening - and the format has remained pretty much the same: wine and cheese, wine and water tasting, wine and cheese themed quizzes, a bottle raffle and lots of fun. We try to hold the event as near to World Water Day as possible, but circumstances sometimes demand flexibility.

Fast forward 15 years and we have just recently held our 2024 event. Members and friends enjoyed sampling a wonderful variety of cheeses, including one labelled "Black Murder", were challenged by the wine and water tasting (with one or two failing to spot the difference between a still water and a white

wine), and grew as excited about winning a bottle of bleach as they did about winning a bottle of fine red. (No accounting for taste!). Most importantly, everyone had a good time, and we raised £660 to help support WaterAid with their current clean water projects in remote rural areas thereby empowering women and girls.



SI High Wycombe & District

Dementia Support and Awareness

SI High Wycombe's concern about the effects of dementia stems from members' experiences with friends and family who have suffered from these different fatal brain diseases. It was deemed a relevant cause for the Club's involvement because women are at greater risk of developing Alzheimer's Disease. Two-thirds of people living with dementia in the UK are women. This is partly because women live longer and age is the greatest known risk factor, but there is some research evidence



suggesting that the structure of female brains makes women more susceptible.



Furthermore, according to surveys of unpaid carers of people living with dementia, there are two and a half times more women providing 24-hour unpaid care.

Following a presentation by Alzheimer's Research UK (ARUK) at a London Chilterns Regional meeting about 10 years ago Sue Granshaw (pictured here) volunteered to be a Community Speaker to raise awareness and funds to find a cure. SI High Wycombe's focus has always primarily been on the local community and Sue represented the Club and ARUK on the committee of Wycombe District Dementia Action (WDDA), a community association

that brings together organisations and charities working with dementia to raise awareness of the diseases themselves and of local support. As well as SI High Wycombe, partners include Carers Bucks, local care homes and home care providers, High Wycombe Library, the Eden Centre, Buckinghamshire Council, Chiltern Open Air Museum, Buckinghamshire College and many other local service providers.

SI High Wycombe raised funds through afternoon teas with speakers to help match fund the Community Board grant to buy roller banners and leaflets and the development of WDDA's website. Members have also



volunteered on stands at local exhibitions and found speaking engagements for Sue to raise awareness of dementia and local facilities and support, as well as the work of ARUK and developments in research.



In recognition of Sue's community work with dementia she was invited to represent ARUK and WDDA at the launch of the Barbara Windsor Dementia Mission at 10 Downing Street. Promoted by Scott Mitchell, Barbara's widower, the Government has pledged to double annual investment in dementia research to £160 million. This was a great opportunity to talk about WDDA and to promote Soroptimism!

SI High Wycombe is planning further events to raise funds and, with our WDDA partners, to raise awareness of dementia over the next two years with emphasis on early diagnosis and reducing the risk of dementia. These include presentations, exhibition stands and engagement with local businesses, including a How to Guide to encourage them to become more supportive of people in the community living with dementia. A key objective is to engage with all the ethnic groups in High Wycombe.

SI Milton Keynes – Violet Awards Project



2021 was the centenary year for Soroptimist International, and like all Clubs we were looking at ways we could celebrate the anniversary and women.

SI Milton Keynes fundraises to help our chosen charities meet gaps in provision for their clients. Currently we support MK Act, MK YMCA, UnityMK, Ukraine Appeal and Works for Us (now part of Citizens Advice MK).

During COVID, our link officers were telling us how hard our charities were working during these extremely difficult and emotional times and how the staff and volunteers were having to work longer and harder. The increased needs brought about by COVID were further exacerbated by the loss of volunteers owing to COVID working practices and cases of infection.

This gave us the idea that here are unsung heroes in our charities who need to be recognised and thanked. We decided to hold an Awards evening, and we named it the Violet Awards, after Violet Richardson Ward, one of the founding members of the first Soroptimist club back in 1921. The photo is of handmade violet hearts given to each of the nominees. Violet's lifetime motto was "It's what you do that counts." These words resonated with us, especially celebrating our 100th birthday but because these awards were an opportunity:



- To value and recognise the work of women to support their communities, which can largely go unnoticed,
- To celebrate their achievements above and beyond what they usually do, the going that extra mile,
- To improve the general wellbeing of those staff and volunteers, even more so during COVID and
- To advance good citizenship and community development.

We developed a criterion and set of qualities and asked each charity to nominate two people, staff or volunteers. All nominations were judged and marked against a judging score sheet. We were looking for an outright winner.



An evening was earmarked, and all the charities and their nominees were invited. Each nomination was read out by their own manager so that they understood why they had been chosen and it gave the managers the opportunity, in front of their peers and the other charities, to say thank you out loud.

This project was about celebrating, valuing, and recognising women who work so tirelessly to help others. It was about hearing their stories of devotion. These unsung heroes who, for a change, we wanted to put at the front and say thank you for all you do. The evening itself is emotional and inspiring, highlighting role models for us all. Because if they did not turn up and help our charities, more people within our community would be suffering unnecessarily. These women, some as volunteers, deal with very complex issues and help very vulnerable people. Some of them have been those vulnerable people who have been able to pick themselves up and now want to help others. We have held these Awards twice now and our charities tell us how valuable these are to them, in saying thank you to their people but also in being able to network with each other and support each other.



SI Newbury & District Club - working with Action Through Enterprise

Newbury club has been associated with Action Through Enterprise (ATE) since 2017 when the founder Sarah Gardner was our speaker.

Sarah was a local teacher who was sent to Lawra in the Upper West corner of Ghana when she volunteered for VSO in 2012. There, children were not attending school because they were foraging for food. Our first support was therefore a donation towards the school feeding programme that was a primary goal for ATE with its first kitchen in 2013. ATE now supports almost 1000 primary school children with 5 meals a week across the whole Lawra district and is expanding into a neighbouring district. School attendance has dramatically increased, and this provides cooking jobs and supports local farmers as secondary wins. More recently, ATE supports gifted and keen girls through secondary school whom some members support personally.



Lawra has welcomed our pillowcase dresses. We have shipped approximately 300 to date with the majority going to ATE. We've learnt that as the girls grow, they simply wear them as shirts! An unforeseen consequence is that violence against very young girls who previously would have wandered naked has reduced. We continue to make dresses. The photos above are of Members of the Club making the dresses, and Sarah with some of the girls proudly wearing their dresses.

At the Soroptimist centenary we not only planted a tree in Newbury but suggested we could provide both shade and food in the long term by planting trees in the school grounds in Lawra. Sarah thought this was a genius idea and so we held an outside event in June 2021 during "semi-lockdown". We raised money for mango and cashew nut trees for each of the 7 schools ATE supported at the time – plus the fencing and watering system to ensure their survival. The trees are thriving and may produce the first fruits



this year. One member has individually donated further funds for trees in newer schools.



Newbury club proudly continues to support and be associated with such a unique and successful charity model by raising funds and introducing Sarah to other local organisations. It is one of our charities this year.

You can read Sarah's amazing story in her book "To Lawra with Love" and how the charity now has several "arms" with health education, awareness and support for families with disabled children, and donations to allow local entrepreneurs to set up in business after rigorous business and technical training. A groundnut farmer and 2 weavers were the first recipients of a grant. Today ATE has 30 permanent staff and is run by locals for locals from community hubs.

ATE is a Registered Charity: 1149988



SI Oxford & District

Ophthalmology Project with Friendship Link Club SI Madurai, India

Dr Manju, a member of SI Madurai, is an ophthalmologist specialising in childhood glaucoma. Childhood glaucoma is rare in Europe but very common in India owing to intermarriage. If babies are given a retinal implant soon after birth their sight can be saved. This does not always happen, and families can have siblings who are all blind. Very often the mother is left alone to care for the blind children. SI Oxford raises funds to enable these mothers to become independent and care for their children – either by running a small shop or something similar. Dr Manju oversees the project and the distribution of funds to the mothers.

SI Oxford fundraises through social events, the project commenced in November 2023 and is ongoing.



SI Slough Windsor & Maidenhead - 90 for 90 Book Collection

SI Slough Windsor and Maidenhead was looking for a way to celebrate SIGBI's 90th birthday in a positive way this year. A local branch of Tesco in Dedworth, Windsor, was running a "books for schools" project. This was because most local schools do not have the resources to buy new books, especially for children and young people up to the age of 18. All local schools would be able to pick what they wanted. The residue would be



donated to the Alexander Devine Children's Hospice in Maidenhead. As literacy is so important today especially for young people, the Club felt it was a useful way to support this. Members collected



new books from families and friends. A date for presentation was set up with the Tesco store. The books were loaded into a Tesco trolley along with a poster advertising the Club. The books were presented to the Tesco Community Champion who was very pleased indeed. The trolley was then left just inside the entrance to the store so that incoming customers would be encouraged to add more books to the collection (and see our Soroptimist advert!). Over 1000 books were collected in total by the general public. All local schools were invited to come and make their choices. They were very pleased with their chosen books. One school representative said, "We are delighted with the books we collected this morning". Articles appeared on Facebook and the online version of a local newspaper.

SI St Albans and District - #OrangeTheWorldHerts

#OrangeTheWorldHerts – the Club’s campaign to inspire others to join Soroptimists in saying **NO** to violence against women and girls!

“Orange is a bright and optimistic colour, representing a future free from violence against women and girls.” UNiTE, UN Women.

Soroptimist International St Albans & District Orange the World Campaign marks the **United Nations 16 days of activism to end gender-based violence from 25 Nov to 10 Dec.** The whole Soroptimist global organisation focuses on the goal to **end violence against women and girls.**



This montage of images is from the 2023 campaign.

SI St Albans and District started this project small in 2020, during lockdown, inspired by buildings turning orange around the world for Nov 25th to mark the UN **“International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women”** They made an impact when the St Albans Museum and Gallery in the City Centre turned orange.

The campaign had grown bigger every year, involving more Club Members and with more orange activities to spread knowledge about violence against women and girls and the significance of the 16 Days of Activism.





The launch event at the St Albans Museum on or close to the 25 Nov gets better every year providing opportunities for media coverage for the dignitaries and influencers attending and creating inspiring images. There are more great "Orange" images from Herts County Council headquarters in Hertford – this inspiring event was led by SI Hertford and District.

Organisations joining the campaign included the County Council, the High Sheriff, Herts Police, Herts University, secondary schools, churches, local businesses, pubs, shops, offices, Town/City Councils and Councillors and individuals. We also worked closely with the **#WhiteRibbon** Campaign in St Albans and Hertfordshire, which engages men and boys to end violence against women and girls. The goal of both campaigns is the same. The Club has created a resources pack which is available to download from the website.

See the website for the 2023 campaign <https://sigbi.org/st-albans/orange23/> if you want to join in with the 2024 campaign please click here to read more: <https://sigbi.org/st-albans/orange24/>.

SI Thames Valley – Kori Project and Orange Café

The Kori Development Project (UK registered charity 1158663 – website www.koridp.org) is a long-standing Club project that works to educate, empower and improve the health of women and girls in Taiama, in the Kori district of Sierra Leone with a diverse range of developments and activities. The project includes actions to support the eradication of FGM and promote all aspects of female reproductive health and hygiene. The project, with the establishment of the charity, was led by Club Member Rose Moriba and supported by Club Members including the late Johanna Raffan.

In 2016 Soroptimist International included details of the project in the report of evidence to the UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development highlighting work of Soroptimist clubs in working towards gender equality.

Eight years ago, the only secondary school between Moyamba Junction and Taiama was severely damaged in a storm. The roof was blown off, but the children kept coming to learn in a nearby abandoned pig sty! Two years ago, we completed the rebuild of the school with four new classrooms with a borehole and latrines outside so the children had clean water and separate toilets for boys and girls.



The photo is of the children showing their appreciation of the new school.

So popular has the school become that many more children have arrived, and it was decided to expand the intake so that we now teach 11- to 17-year-olds. The problem is that we need **more** space. So now we are fundraising to build three more classrooms and more latrines! At present the children are squeezed into the new library, for which Rosie Hutchinson raised funds with sales of beautiful bags etc.

We have raised about half of the funds for the extra classrooms but would love to be able to finish them before next term. Is your club wondering what to raise funds for this year? Please consider supporting Kori – those children are so keen to learn and some of them walk many miles to school every day.

SI Thames Valley has provided a range of support to Wycombe Women's Aid for 20 years now. Last year we also supported the launch of the SIGBI report on legislative processes 'Specialist Domestic Abuse Courts – How special were they in 2022?'. The club contributed by reviewing local court processes in two of the areas covered by Thames Valley Police. We have also had speakers at club meetings during the last year about local services providing Domestic Violence advice.

In the spring we supported the SIGBI initiative on Orange days and ran a one-day Orange Café to raise local awareness of Domestic Violence locally and the opportunities to get support from local organisations. Our work has been publicised locally and promoted on the SIGBI website (winning Photo of the Month).



SI Greater London Centenary 2024

SI Great Britain and Ireland (SIGBI) Federation Soroptimist Founder Club celebrated its milestone anniversary with

“TIME TRAVEL: SOROPTIMISM ACROSS GENERATIONS”

a piece by the Club’s longest serving Member Irene Cockroft.



To mark their centenary, the Club has arranged talks by Miss Amelia Hawes, on the life of her great, great aunt Miss Elizabeth Hawes M.B.E. (1888-1966) SI Greater London (SIGL) founder Member. The talks are based on Amelia’s research for her book: *Elizabeth Hawes 1888 -1966*. Amelia has an updated section of Elizabeth’s Pre-World War II, 16 mm cine film footage.

Amelia’s research into the life of her great, great aunt Elizabeth, inspired by the family archive and aided by Irene, is a rich ***Soroptimism across Generations*** resource that has added lustre to SIGL Centenary events.

Thanks must go to, Amelia, who is now an honorary Member of the Club.

A broad outline of Amelia’s historic research is described in this article © V. Irene Cockroft, SIGL Historian.

Into its second century, Soroptimist International Greater London Club will continue to help women and girls achieve aspirations locally, nationally and internationally.



Photo © Amelia Hawes 2024
Article © V. Irene Cockroft 2024

SIGL Sisters Visit Hotel 63 <https://number63.co.uk/>

In February 2024, members of SIGL, the first Soroptimist International Club chartered outside America and seventh in the world, were invited to meet Miss Amelia Hawes, great, great-niece of SIGL Club Founder Member Miss Elizabeth Hawes MBE (1888-1966).

Amelia trained as a photographer. As part of her 2024 final university assignment, she wished to photograph modern SIGL members visiting 63, for a book she was compiling about her Soroptimist relative Elizabeth Hawes (Bess to her family). Amelia had no idea that 2024 was the centenary of Bess's Soroptimist club. SIGL Sisters had no idea that Elizabeth had a talented great, great-niece. They welcomed Amelia as a guest Member. Amelia has now gained her well-deserved first class honours degree.

Times past: Elizabeth Hawes served SIGL Club twice as president. In 1934 she attended the Paris SI Convention that presided over the SI European Federation including Great Britain and Ireland. With war clouds looming over Europe a second time in 20 years, it was time to found the third SI Federation – SI Great Britain and Ireland (SIGBI).

Elizabeth was elected President of the SIGBI Federation 1937-38. In June 1938, with other Soroptimists she sailed from England to Atlantic City, USA, to attend the next SI Quadrennial Convention. Bess blessed her new 16mm cine camera that fused time, travel and convention onto film for SIGL members unable to travel.



Cine film 'still' © Elizabeth Hawes 1938

British Soroptimists at the Claridge Hotel, Atlantic City seem anxious. At the convention Elizabeth, to enthusiastic applause, spoke against war as a means of settling international disputes. When the 1938 convention appointed Elizabeth first International Liaison Secretary 1938–1948, she blessed her education in European languages.

Advent of World War II: In September 1939 Germany invaded Poland. In response, Great Britain and France declared war on Germany.

Elizabeth Hawes liaised between the Americas and Great Britain and Ireland SI Federations, to aid Soroptimists trapped in enemy-occupied Europe. At weekends, SIGL club members helped Elizabeth open parcels of food and clothing from the UK, USA, Canada and further afield. Goods were repacked to official guidelines then dispatched to European Soroptimists to distribute to relieve dire need. On weekdays, Elizabeth worked long hours as a dispensing optician in the family optical business, short-staffed due to military call-up.

Armistice at last! In May 1945, sixth year of World War II, defeated aggressor Nazi Germany surrendered to Britain and her Allies. In September, Pacific Ocean region aggressor Japan surrendered to the United States of America and her Allies. Win or lose, war ends in tears. Over 60 million lives were lost in conflict.

In 1946, King George 6th honoured Elizabeth with an MBE medal - Member (of the order of) British Empire - for War Service.

Back to the Future. In 1948 Mrs Marion Sykes BA, then President of Greater London club, with other members of the 'find a SIGBI HQ' committee, inspected a freehold property for sale at 63 Bayswater Road, London W2. It was located opposite Kensington Gardens and minutes from Lancaster Gate Underground Station. This elegant edifice, once the home of the Royal Consul for Italy, offered office space, meeting rooms, cloakroom, catering facilities and hotel accommodation for guests. The SI committee authorised purchase. Through a Society formed under the Industrial Provident Societies Act, British Soroptimists subscribed the means, through the purchase of a maximum 40 x £5 shares spread over the membership so that all felt they were part of the venture.



Photo © Amelia Hawes

Happy Centenary! Fast-forward to February 2024. SIGL members including Amelia hastened from '63' to a nearby Inn for a Centenary Celebration lunch. SIGL's charter anniversary is 14th February - St Valentine's Day.



Amelia Hawes (left), now Honorary Member of SIGL, rests after photographing the Hawes family archive for her commemorative book section: *A Soroptimist's story: Elizabeth Hawes*.

Amelia was photographed by her assistant Jillian Clarke ©.

Current longest-serving SIGL member Irene Cockroft, historian, was photographed by Amelia © at Soroptimist Hotel 63.

