



President Kate Belinis

Theme for the Year: “Impactful Women”

Regional Newsletter – December 2024



I am so grateful for the truly wonderful support for my theme **“Celebrating Inspirational Women”** for **2023/24** and the excellent production of our Region’s brochure and poster celebrating our Clubs’ inspirational accomplishments and achievements – please click here to view/download: <https://sigbi.org/london-chilterns/brochure-2024>

My theme for **2024/25** is **“Impactful Women”** and again I am asking for your stories (with photos of course) of how an individual woman or group of women in your Club or who you are working with, have made an impact on the lives of women and girls. We will showcase them at our Region’s International Women’s Day event on Saturday 15th March 2025.

Thank you for the honour and privilege of being London Chilterns Region President for another year. My theme **‘Impactful Women’** is to highlight the positive impact of women bringing Club Members and women from their own networks to our notice and perhaps for each Club to celebrate during the year at a Club meeting. I would be delighted to attend such celebrations, please invite me!

I look forward to meeting you and learning how and what each club does with your Programme Action and aligning with our Sustainable Development Goals.

Yours in Friendship, Kate Belinis, Deputy Lieutenant Hertfordshire”

Regional News

Your Regional Officers for the Coming Year are:

Post & District	Post Holder	Club	Contact Details
President	Kate Belinis	SI Hertford & District	katebelinissi@gmail.com
Secretary	Joanna Swift	SI Aylesbury & District	swiftlexis@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Denise Powell	SI St Albans & District	silondonchilterns.treasurer@gmail.com
Programme Action Officer	Pam Robertson	SI Hertford & District	pamelarobertson807@btinternet.com
Membership & Development Officers	Helen Byrne	SI St Albans & District	helenbsorop@yahoo.co.uk
	Rita Beaumont	SI Bedford	r.beaumont3@ntlworld.com
Public Relations Officer	Jane Slatter	SI St Albans & District	pinkyslatter@hotmail.com
Communications & Website Administrator	Jane Slatter	SI St Albans & District	pinkyslatter@hotmail.com
FCC	Jen Simpson	SI High Wycombe & District	jensimpson@blueyonder.co.uk
Benevolent Fund Trustee	Rita Beaumont	SI Bedford	r.beaumont3@ntlworld.com

A Call to Action ~ Your Region Still Needs You

We are a friendly group who would like new members to bring fresh ideas to the management of the Region so why not join us for a meeting ~ just let Rita know so we can send you the papers and meeting link All the meetings are via Zoom so you do not even have to travel into London



Our Posters at SIGBI Conference in Edinburgh

**Soroptimist International
London Chilterns Region 2024**

- ❖ Inspirational Clubs and their
- ❖ Inspirational Projects delivered by
- ❖ Inspirational Soroptimists!



SI High Wycombe & District
10 Downing Street
for Dementia Awareness



SI Milton Keynes
Violet Awards for Women
Community Champions



SI Aylesbury & District
Tree Planting at the
Women's Refuge



SI Slough Windsor & Maidenhead
"90 for 90"
Books for Schools



SI Thames Valley
Orange Café to End Violence
Against Women and Girls



SI St Albans & District
Orange Hertfordshire,
16 Days of Activism

<https://sigbi.org/london-chilterns/>



100 YEARS

LOOKING FURTHER

Soroptimist International
Bristol

Soroptimist International
Greater London

Soroptimist International
Bath

SI London Chilterns Region at the SIGBI Conference Edinburgh 2024



It was wonderful that so many Members of London Chilterns Region were able to join together at the SIGBI Conference in Edinburgh 1-3 Nov 2024 held in the magnificent Assembly Rooms. There were more than 20 of us there, and almost all Clubs were represented.

To view the Programme for Edinburgh 2024 click here: <https://sigbi.org/edinburgh2024/programme/> The theme was the Soroptimist mantra **“Educate, Empower, Enable”**.

This conference is in the Federation’s 90th year and there were lots of photos of **“90 for 90”** shown on the big screen, it was lovely so see that so many has been submitted by our Region.



The Opening ceremony it is always moving to see all of the flags from our Federation. Jane was asked to carry the flag for Grenada which she was honoured to do . Because we were in Scotland we had a piper to play while the flags were presented to the SIGBI President, and because we are Soroptimists the piper was a she!



Our Region’s poster (see photo with I to r Joanna Swift, Barbara Saunders, Kate Belinis and Jane Slatter) was on display with posters from all Regions and Countries. It was wonderful to see all the great work going on around the Federation.



Our special centenary poster (see photo with Jane Slatter) was also on display, marking the centenaries of SI Greater London, Bristol and Bath.

We were able to give copies of the Region’s brochure **“Inspirational Clubs and their Projects”**, our showcase of work in our Region, to influential people in the Soroptimist organisation so that they can get a taste of our Region

Edinburgh 2024 was a great conference and I was really pleased that I went – I feel like I have had my Soroptimist batteries fully recharged!

Next year’s conference will be in **Birmingham Fri 31 Oct to Sun 2 Nov 2025**. Great news for our Region, because it’s not far to travel and people can go for the day if they wish to. If any Members of Clubs in SI London Chilterns are interested in attending for any or part of the conference please let us know. We can add you to the WhatsApp group so we can all keep up with the plans as soon as more information is made available. The venue is the Birmingham Conference and Events Centre (BCEC) which is directly opposite Birmingham New Street Station.

Jane Slatter, SI London Chilterns Communications Officer

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To read Janes full account of the Edinburgh Conference visit the regional website www.sigbi.org/london-chilterns/contact

News from Clubs

SI Oxford ~ Visit by Friendship Link SI Leiden



At SI Oxford we try to keep closely in touch with our Friendship Links and in September 2024 we hosted eleven members from SI Leiden in the Netherlands. It had been sixteen years since members from Leiden had been to Oxford.

They arrived on Friday and three members took them on a walking tour of the city. In the evening club members put on a splendid supper and members exchanged information on projects and careers.

We also celebrated Pam Lee's fifty years as a Soroptimist. Although Pam was too frail to join us, a basket of flowers and regional and club long service certificates were delivered to her home.

On Saturday the Leiden members visited Christchurch cathedral and then were given lunch by the river. In the afternoon three Oxford members took the group into the Cotswolds ending in a traditional cream tea.

On Sunday a visit to Blenheim Palace ended the weekend and the group travelled home. For Oxford members it was a real opportunity to make closer friendships and to firm the link between the two clubs. For Oxford with only eighteen members, many of them over eighty, it was a strenuous endeavour!



SI Greater London ~ a Year of Celebrations!



Looking for a Gift ~ here are a couple of excellent ideas

Sushila's Silk Scarves: Quality 100% Pure Indian Silk Scarves

Each scarf is 150 cms long and is 80 cms wide and now available in three colours



The Orange Scarf is perfect for "Orange" day held on the 25th of the month and "Orange the World" to end violence against women 25 Nov – 10 Dec
Jane Slatter is modelling it here.

The Purple / Green and Cream is the original Suffragette scarf which has been advertised for many years, as worn here by SIGBI President Ruth Healey.

The 'must have' scarf for all women's suffrage events – and for the Wimbledon Tennis season annually!

A Blue scarf is the colour for our Soroptimist Logo.



Cost: £13.00 each or 3 for £35 (plus post & packing estimate £2.50 for one and £3.50 for 3-4). Washing instructions, by hand cold water.

To order please contact Sushila Sadarangani, a Soroptimist Member of the SI Greater London Club, by email at sheilasadarangani1@gmail.com

Sushila makes a donation from sales to SI Greater London Club's charities.

The Soroptimist Rose – the perfect gift



The Soroptimist Rose is a beautiful "patio" rose. It is perfect for a large pot or in the ground. The flowers are pink and creamy yellow with many flowers on each stem.

ORDERS TAKEN FOR DELIVERY & PLANTING – DECEMBER-MARCH

The cost for bare-rooted plants is £16.45 each, p&p is £4.95 for one or £6.95 for 2-4 plants delivered to the same address. A Soroptimist Rose in a pot is £19.95 and delivery is £10.50. Delivery of more roses in pots to the same address will be £3.50 each. Roses are extremely well packed for delivery.

All profits from the sale of the Soroptimist Rose go to **SI Thames Valley's charities: Kori Development Project and Wycombe Women's Aid.**

To order please contact us via this website www.sigbi.org/london-chilterns/contact-us

The rose was developed in America by Frank Benardello and he agreed to send us 50 plants in time for the 75th Anniversary of Soroptimist International in October 1996.

There are strict regulations on importing plant material into the UK and the roses had to be "washed" and bundled according to regulations. Keith Jones then drove from Manchester to Heathrow to collect them, took cuttings to propagate more, and potted up the 50 roses in time for our Conference at Harrogate that year. We were able to present our SIGBI President, Hilary Page with a rose and each of the Regions bought roses to present to their Region's Presidents.

Since then it has featured on the front cover of the European Soroptimist Journal and been purchased by many clubs all over the UK and Europe. Any profits from sales go direct to SI Thames Valley Club charities.



CARING FOR OUR OWN

In Debt?
Can't pay Bills?
Struggling?



Can we help?

SIGBI BENEVOLENT FUND

Registered Charity No 211840

The Benevolent Fund has been helping Soroptimists for over 80 years.

Did you know that you have contributed to this fund?

Who's eligible for assistance?

Any woman who has been a member of a Soroptimist Club in the UK or Republic of Ireland, including the Channel Islands, for **three** years or more. *

Talk to your Region's Benevolent Fund Trustee for more details.

Be assured that all enquiries and applications are treated with the strictest confidence. Your Region's Benevolent Fund Trustee is:

Name:	Rita Beaumont
Email:	r.beaumont3@ntlworld.com
Telephone:	01234 401475 & 07764511006

The Purpose of the Benevolent Fund

To ease applicants' financial difficulties by:

- **either** a quarterly payment where income does not sufficiently cover outgoings
- **or** a one-off payment for an unexpected expense.

The discretionary help from the Fund includes grants towards:

- utility bills
- essential living expenses
- maintenance of house/garden
- stair lift/shower installation
- daily living aids e.g. magnifying viewer/computer aids

(These are simply examples. Every application is considered on its own merits.)

The Fund supports an average of 25 women each year and is available to anyone within the UK and Republic of Ireland, including the Channel Islands, who has been a member for **three** years or more* (or a past member who is in financial difficulty **up to three years** after resigning), provided their income is within the limits currently set by the Trustees.

Payments are grants, not loans, so do not have to be repaid. They do not count as income.

** In exceptional circumstances the Board has discretion to consider applications from newer members.*

How can you apply?

For further information and an application form contact your Region's Benevolent Fund Trustee or the Benevolent Fund Secretary – email: sigbi.benevolentfund@yahoo.co.uk
SIGBI Website: sigbi.org/what-we-do/our-charities/benevolent-fund/

The Benevolent Fund derives its income from levies made by all Soroptimist members in the UK and Republic of Ireland, including the Channel Islands, as well as from donations and legacies all of which are invested in an ethical investment portfolio. The income from these investments is used to support beneficiaries.

Donations and legacies make an enormous difference to the lives of the women supported by this Fund.

Donations

SIGBI Benevolent Fund always welcomes donations. Bank Transfer is preferred.

Payee: SIGBI Benevolent Fund Sort Code: 40-52-40

Account Number: 00093701

Reference: Your name or club or region

Cheques may be sent to SIGBI, 2nd Floor, Beckwith House, 1-3 Wellington Road North, Stockport SK4 1AF. (Cheques should be made payable to 'SIGBI Benevolent Fund')

If you pay tax, please consider adding gift aid to your donation. Your Region Trustee has forms.

If an acknowledgement is required, please email sigbi.benevolentfund@yahoo.co.uk

Legacies: Please consider leaving a legacy to the Benevolent Fund in your Will.

End Snip-Its!

Dates for Your Diary!

SI London Chilterns Regional Meetings



- ❖ **Saturday 16th March 2024** ~ Celebration of International Women's Day
At The University of Hertfordshire
- ❖ **Saturday 7th June 2025** ~ hosted by SI St Albans & District
- ❖ **Saturday 18th October 2025** ~ at Lancaster Hall, London

All are Face-to-Face Meetings ~ watch out for exciting details



AGM "63" for Shareholders via Zoom ~ Saturday 1st March 2025
Starting at 2pm



**Soroptimist
International**
Great Britain & Ireland

SIGBI Conference 2025 in Birmingham between 31st October & 2nd November



Reminder re RED ~ do not forget to send entries to Jane at silondonchilterns@hotmail.com



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this issue includes 16 Days of Activism & Soroptimist International Foundation Day

Keep informed about news from SI and sign up for "The Global Voice" delivered directly to your inbox - simply visit the [SI Website https://www.soroptimistinternational.org/](https://www.soroptimistinternational.org/) and scroll down until you see the box that says "GLOBAL VOICE SIGN-UP" - add your email address and it's done