

2020-2021, the 75<sup>th</sup> year of the club, may possibly be our most unusual year yet. It started very positively with our Day of Reflection in February 2020 where we were joined by Maidstone members as we shaped the coming year using SIGBI's Growth Plan template. We were delighted that 12 Maidstone members officially joined us at the April 2020 AGM, bringing with them a number of Programme Action initiatives to enrich our programme of projects.

Federation structures its PA according to the '5Ps' and our expanded list of projects covers all these to some degree:

	<b>5 Ps</b>
1. Amnesty International (Wanda Wright)	People, Peace, Partnership
2. Byron Partnership (Jane Barnes)	People, Partnership
3. Carers issues (Lillian Gould)	People
4. Domestic Abuse, Women's Refuge (Angela Howe)	People
5. Education in Ethiopia (Jenny Jones)	Prosperity
6. Foodbank (Angela Howe)	People
7. Human Trafficking (Wanda Wright)	People
8. Itarsi (Sue Hunt)	People, Prosperity
9. Kente Sashes (Nellie Adjaye)	People, Prosperity, Partnership
10. Mary's Meals Back Pack Project (Janet Hughes)	People
11. Mental Health, Dementia, Wellbeing (Carol McKeough)	People
12. Shoebox Appeal (Sue Daykin)	People
13. Sustainability (Liz Duckworth)	Planet
14. Talking News (Angela Howe)	People
15. Zisize (Julia Search)	People, Prosperity, Partnership
16. Toilet Twinning (Angela Howe)	People
17. Project Hope (Janet Garnons-Williams)	People

My thanks to all the Project Leads who have kept me up to date with their projects. Despite Covid striking in early 2020, we still managed to make good progress throughout the year. Covid inevitably paused some projects, such as the Talking News, but we were able to continue several others, including Foodbanks and the Women's Refuge, when they were most in need of support.

We added two new projects to the list during the year: Toilet Twinning is a great 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year project, although it is on hold and it will get back on track when Covid restrictions are lessened. Project Hope has sparked the interest of several members who have written to women in prison (60 letters at the last count).

Although we focus on the list, we must not forget the other service activities that members carried out during the year, such as the amazing contribution of those who responded to the need for the production of face masks, scrubs and other Covid-related items.

All these projects need recording and I am extremely grateful to Jane for consistently completing Programme Focus Forms for all our activities throughout the year.

The Covid pandemic has meant that all our meetings over the past year have been held via Zoom, so their content has had to be kept more concise. In June 2020, when it looked like Zoom would be the norm for the foreseeable future, I began circulating a monthly programme action update before each club meeting to save time in meetings. As we are undertaking so many projects now, I intend to keep producing monthly updates even post-Covid when we are able to meet again.

Looking forward to the new Soroptimist year 2021-2022, I am grateful to everyone who contributed to the Reflection session in February. Your input gave me confidence that we will achieve even more in the year ahead.

Liz Duckworth, Programme Action Officer  
 March 2021

*"There are far better things ahead than any we leave behind."* C.S. Lewis