

Minutes of UKPAC Meeting held on Saturday 1 August 2020
Zoom Platform

PRESENT

Chairman	Liz Dominey
Vice Chairman	Glenys Hunt
Secretary	Maureen Maguire
Treasurer	Rhona Bowler
Website/Communications	Kathy Warrick
Cheshire, North Wales & the Wirral	Esther Roberts
London Anglia	Sharon Richardson
London Chilterns	Pamela Robertson/Jackie Paling
Midland Chase	Ann Dawson/Zena Lear
Midland East	Helen Everett
Midland Arden	Denise Carson
North West England & Isle of Man	Isabel Huggett
Northern England	Karen Alexander
Northern Ireland	Rita Allen
Scotland North	Janice Wilson
Scotland South	Brenda Kay
South East England	Yvonne Freeman
South Lancashire	Sriya Kulupana
South West England & Channel Islands	Di Hill
Southern England	Louise Adorn (Proxy)
Wales South	Bobbie Sheldrake
Yorkshire	Lindsay Green
Programme Director	Kay Richmond

APOLOGIES

Cheshire Nr Wales & Wirral	Sian Kent
Midland Chase	Edna Schafer-Hughes

OBSERVERS

Nathalia Berkowitz
Anne Jackson
Kam Britland

1	<p>WELCOME AND APOLOGIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liz opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. Maureen advised that she had taken the Roll Call as she had admitted everyone to the meeting. Apologies were noted. 	
2	<p>OPENING REMARKS - Chairman Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liz advised that this meeting is a follow on from the previous meeting to give all 	

	<p>Regional Representative's time to give their reports as it had not been possible to do this at the meeting on 20 June 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All report number had been circulated on a table and she asked people to be kind but critical • She wanted to see what were the key words used by members and also to get an idea of how clubs were reporting. 	
<p>3.</p>	<p>REPORTS FROM REGIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheshire Nr. Wales & Wirral - Project Number: 55429 – Tomorrow's Women Wirral - A Centre for Women as an Alternative to Custodial Sentencing/Prison. During Covid19 the centre remained open full time but only for crisis visits and statutory appointments as it could not be operated as a drop-in centre. An Outreach Service was developed as an alternative including: purchase of 437 mobile phones for virtual courses x 8; weekly delivery of hygiene packs and food parcels in the centre's 'pink van'; telephone relationship & welfare calls; email support; social media engagement & activity plus launch of Tomorrow's Young Women virtual. Outputs: 1609 women assisted + 3148 benefiting from digital activities and social media engagement. • London Anglia – Project Number 55256 – The Ideas Partnership – Kosovo – This is one part of an ongoing programme by SI East London with the women and girls of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian (RAE) community in Kosovo in partnership with the Ideas Partnership. The RAE community are a marginalised community who face particular challenges in accessing education, with poverty as well as high rates of maternal and infant mortality and child marriage. This particular project is helping three women to improve their spoken English. • London Chilterns – Project Number 55331 Zoom Health Event – Spice of life Cookery Demo SI St. Albans and District organised a programme of three excellent sessions on the subject of health and well-being, both physical and mental, in order to support their own members, members across the region and a wider audience of Soroptimists and friends (including their Friendship Links in Germany and California) as we ease out of lockdown and learn to live with COVID-19. St. Albans also made possible the opportunity for participants to make a voluntary contribution, and their local Women's Refuge, Herts. Area Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Centre, together with Hematology Cancer Care Unit at University College Hospital, all benefited to the tune of £450, £133 and £120 respectively. • Midland Arden – Silent Auction during COVID Mental Health Awareness Week 2020 – SI Stourbridge and District held a silent auction to raise funds for a local mental health charity, whose staff had not been able to furloughed due to the fact that staff needed to keep in touch with current service users as well as supporting many more during the current crisis.. Members donated their May dinner monies to the cause as well as buying face masks made by one member. Monies collected also went to this charity. • Midland Chase – Project Number 55028 Cannock Club Strolling for St Giles Hospice: As a consequence of Covid 19 the Solstice Walk, the Hospices biggest Annual Fund Raiser was cancelled and was replaced by the Solstice Stroll. Those who were able walked the full 10K others walked 10,000 steps or 5,000 steps. Those not able to stroll sponsored strollers!! An enjoyable and different way to ensure the good work of the Hospice can continue in very difficult times. Cannock club have supported this Hospice since it was opened approx. thirty years ago. • Midland East – Project Number 54841 – C-19 Scrubs Loughborough This project exemplified what one person, in this case Janet Waters, Secretary of SI Loughborough, can achieve with drive, organisational skills and local media, recruiting 20+ sewers to 	

make up scrubs for 3 Leicester hospitals, 2 GP practices, a Nottingham ICU, and a local children's hospice – a total of 400 sets in all. Janet is holding a garden party in August for the volunteers who helped.

- **NW England & IOM – Project Number 55012 SI Lancaster - Covid 19 Elimination of Violence against Women.** SI Lancaster raised awareness of the facts and figures of Worldwide Domestic Violence (from the UN Women Website) which they incorporated into an orange themed video featuring members during lockdown. This was a way of highlighting the statistics in a very accessible way. It was released on the 25th of June as the 25th of each month is an orange day. This was shared on Facebook and also included on their Website and here is the video link <https://sigbi.org/lancaster/2020/06/25/lancaster-si-goes-orange/>
- **Northern England – Project Number Come Dance With Me** – A Northern Soul virtual dance party was arranged by clubs in Northern England Region, to raise money for “Empowering girls in Nepal” Inspired by the 2.6 Challenge concept (after the cancellation of the London Marathon due to COVID-19 pandemic), the event was planned for 26 June, where we would play 26 tracks and ask for a donation of £2.60. It was shared widely through social media and shared with family and friends as well as Club members.
- **Northern Ireland Project Number 55047 – Lisburn Foodbank Cookery School via Video Link during COVID-19** SI Lisburn has been working in Partnership with the Lisburn Food Bank since 2012 but in 2017 it was identified that clients had additional needs. Following research President Beverley established a cookery school. To maintain communication during Covid-19 lockdown lessons continued by creating videos which were posted on Facebook. These addressed limited cooking skills, poor family nutrition, poor money management and low self-esteem. 48 clients accessed the teaching and there were over 6000 views on Facebook pages.
- **Scotland North – Project Number 54270 - Stella's Voice** This project supports mostly women and girls in Moldova. They have built two homes for girls and one for boys who are all Orphans. These are young people who might become prime targets for sex traffickers. Five retail shops in the UK provide the money to build and support these homes - and also providing Education and Life Skills. Donations of personal items help with their self esteem.
- **Scotland South Brenda Scotland South – Project Number 55033 – Provide Mask Extenders for Care Home Staff – COVID-19** - I picked one COVID project, because I wanted to highlight how all the Clubs across Scotland South adapted their Programme Action to COVID. Some Clubs continued to support existing projects, but changed their support, perhaps from cash to donating items or changing the timing of their donations. In addition, several Clubs reacted to specific COVID requests, like making masks or scrub bags. I thought COVID shows just how much Soroptimists can achieve.
- **South East England - Project No 55440 – Recovery from COVID-19 – Economic/Environmental Impact.** In May 2020 in conjunction with Friends of the Earth and other local influencers, SI Tunbridge Wells and District wrote to politicians and Council leaders regarding local initiatives in respect of economic recovery from the effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic. By way of follow up action, the club took part in a demonstration in July 2020 on the steps of Tunbridge Wells Town Hall organised by Friends of the Earth to highlight the lack of action to date to cut carbon emissions. This was an excellent example of a club working in partnership with other organisations to address the Sustainable Development Goals and, in particular, SDG's 13 and 17.
- **South Lancashire Project Number 54820 – Protection of Birds and Wildlife.** I chose this project -Protection of Birds & Wildlife because it was work done by innovative

	<p>thinking during COVID restrictions & partnering with local council & publicising SI. The club- SI Leigh & district organised a litter pick at a council park to save small birds & other wildlife from small items of plastics & metal which could be fatal to some. In the clubs' view the benefits were; an exercise walk, addressing litter hazards, social networking for members at a time of restrictions, promoting Soroptimist organisation & saving the planet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South West England & Channel Islands – Project Number 54842 – Women’s Refuge. SI Plymouth supported their local women’s refuge by buying and delivering food for recipes taught to the women in the refuge virtually. They supplied the ingredients at a cost of £150 for 8 cookery lessons taught over two weeks to educate the women in cooking healthy, nutritious, affordable meals. • Southern England Project Number 54510 Writing for Me to You – Something as simple as receiving a letter can make the world of difference to a person suffering from cancer. This “Donate a Letter” project for patients struggling with self-isolation during their treatment for cancer. A simple project that any of our members could do, whether physically active or not. Find out more at www.frommetoyouletters.co.uk • Wales South – Project Number 52192 – Mountain Ash Comprehensive School, First Give Awards – Outstanding Pupil Award. SI Aberdare and District provided financial support to a pupil in the First Give Programme where they research social issues affecting their community. The winner of the Outstanding Pupil Award received a donation to enable her to prepare for her trip to India and a trophy. The Club presented the trophy and gave an overview of the work undertaken by Soroptimists. • Yorkshire – Project 55245 Get Care Sorted. In 2019, SI York Ebor identified the need for action to address the social care crisis in their area. The members sought to use their influence to press for a properly funded integrated health and social care system, through lobbying their MPs, meeting with local action groups, and gathering evidence from recipients. As a result of research they realised that this was a project that should be carried out regionally and so this was launched at the Yorkshire Regional Meeting in March 2020. • Liz thanked everyone for their reports and remarked what on the breadth and depth of these. 	
4.	<p>PROGRAMME DIRECTOR REPORT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme Director Kay advised that guidance relating to the making of face masks may be found on{- https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/332293/WHO-2019-nCov-IPC_Masks-2020.4-eng.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y and https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/when-and-how-to-use-masks • She advised everyone to scroll to page 9 and use the links, making sure you use/make 3 layer masks please, since the evidence is that 2 layer ones can increase viral transmission. She offered to send research papers to anyone who would like to read them. She further advised that children under 11 are not required to wear masks and in particular, neither should babies wear masks as it is considered to be dangerous. • SDGS – Kay advised that it is becoming more obvious that without SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and SDG 17 (Partnerships) we will find it difficult to achieve any of the other SDGs. Please remember to state who your Partners are on 	

	the PFRF and to tick SDG 17. Clubs might feel that another SDG is the main focus so tick both/several - that would be welcome.	
5.	<p>WEBSITE AND COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kathy advised that her reports were on dropbox but wished to thank everyone for promoting the Soroptimist Day of Action. She asked Regional Reps to share her reports with the Regional Communication Officer and place as an agenda item at Region. She wanted everyone to encourage Clubs to use more website platforms – Twitter, Facebook, Instagram etc. <p><i>ACTION – Members to speak to Regional Communication Officer and Club re social media.</i></p>	ALL
6.	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members asked Karen re feedback on Poems. She advised that the closing date had been extended and she would report at the November meeting. Kay advised that the SIGBI Conference in October would be virtual. Cost is £50.00 +VAT = £60. There would be a virtual Federation Programme Action Meeting on the Thursday 29 October which is free to register; details will be announced of how to register over the next few weeks. The theme is Build Back Better – she wanted to review the year and looking forward build a better future. She asked members to encourage other members and friends to register – a great way of promoting the work that we do. Liz advised that the next meeting will be a Zoom meeting and will take place on Saturday 7 November 2020 at 10.00am. The March meeting has been booked in Solihull. <p><i>ACTION</i> <i>All members to encourage club members to register for FPAC and invite friends.</i> <i>All members to note the date of the next meeting – 7 November 2020</i></p> <p>There was no other business and the meeting closed.</p>	ALL ALL

Signed

Date