

**Minutes of UKPAC Meeting held on Saturday 3 July 2021
Zoom Platform**

PRESENT

Chairman	Liz Dominey
Vice Chairman	Lindsay Green
Secretary	Maureen Maguire
Treasurer	Rhona Bowler
Website/Communications	Kathy Warrick
Cheshire, North Wales & the Wirral	Esther Roberts/Gillie O'Rourke
London Anglia	Sharon Richardson
London Chilterns	Pam Robertson/Jackie Paling
Midland Chase	Edna Schafer-Hughes/Zena Lear
Midland East	Helen Everett
North West England & Isle of Man	Anne Jackson
Northern England	Pat Newsham - proxy
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	Eleanor Evans
Wales South	Bobbie Sheldrake
Yorkshire	Susie Westwood
Programme Director	Kay Richmond

OBSERVERS

Malta	Lina Borg Vassallo
SI Stafford	Ann Dawson
SI Leeds	Jennie Gilham
SI St. Albans	Linda Shall
SI Woking	Christina Rollason
SI Winchester	Trefenna Mitchell
SI Bingley	Chris Clarke
SI Bradford	Pam Roebuck
SI Portadown	Jeanette Thornton
SI Bournemouth	Bobbie White
SI Bournemouth	Gail Thomas
SI Dewsbury	Pat Thornes

APOLOGIES

Federation President (from 1 July)	Cathy Cottridge
Midland Arden	Denise Carson
Northern England	Karen Alexander

1	<p>WELCOME AND APOLOGIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liz opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and remarked that the Study Day that morning had been amazing even with the slight change in timing of speakers. • She also noted that the first Study Day on 17 April had also been extremely successfully as many had commented on it. • Liz paid tribute to Federation President Johanna and advised that a sympathy card had been forwarded to her family with condolences on behalf of UKPAC. • Liz advised that she had sent congratulation to Cathy Cottridge and Ruth Healey on taking up their new positions within the Federation. • She advised that she had sent a congratulation card to Christine Corless who is on her ruby wedding anniversary today. Congratulations also go to Ayushi Kundu on being elected as APD Partnership. • Liz thanked Yvonne Freeman APD Partnership for her hard work during the past two years. • Maureen noted the members attending and apologies were noted. 	
2	<p>MINUTE & MATTERS ARISING FROM MEETING HELD ON 27 March 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was noted that the Minutes from the meeting held on 27 March 2021 had already been circulated and approved by email. • The organisation of partnership is being considered • The rail survey is under consideration • Best Practice Awards – entry for these – Programme Focus Report Forms have to uploaded onto the database and approved by 31 July 2021. New information regarding help with completing PFRFs is in the Club mailing on 18 June. Para 2. • Liz advised that one application had been received for the position of Secretary – Christina Rollason SI Woking Club. <p>ACTION <i>Members to advise clubs of timeline for the Best Practice Awards.</i></p>	All
3.	<p>CHAIR REPORT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chair advised that one application had been received – Christina Rollason, SI Woking and asked members to give their approval to her appointment from the start of the new Federation year. Members voted unanimously to approve Christina’s appointment. • Liz advised members of important dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SIGBI Day of Action – 17 July and focus is Climate Action ○ Federation Conference 28-29 October Llandudno –will be virtual and registration is now open ○ SI 100th Anniversary celebrations – 2-3 October 2021 – Early bird 40 USE until 15 July 2021 ○ Maureen has received information from Mary Weston on a Walk of Youth from the G7 to COP26, clubs are encouraged to review and see if they can support or assist the youth in their walk. ○ Liz has received a request from Dame Vera Baird for members’ support on the digitally extraction in the PCSC Bill and has supplied briefing documentation. These are attached to the minutes. <p>ACTION <i>Members to circulate this information from Dame Vera to all clubs as soon as possible.</i></p>	ALL

4	<p>FEEDBACK FROM STUDY DAY EVENT – 17 APRIL 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liz reported that the first event had received many congratulatory comments • A feedback summary has been circulated to all who attended and placed on the UKPAC webpage. • Liz and Janice had met with Ben Brewster from Nottingham to define how to move forward but any work needs members who are willing to help and work. • Janice advised that she had circulated to all of the sub-committee but was still waiting to hear from some members. • Janice advised that the possible projects are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Have to hand the Soroptimist International ‘Where we stand’ on Human Trafficking, obtainable from the SI Website ○ National lobbying for a living wage not a minimum wage. ○ Look at Supply Chains – which are not legally enforced. Change consumer awareness. Cheap goods usually involves exploitation or slavery in the supply chain. ○ Survey and specific case study or actions centring on women and girls. Ben will provide further information ○ Slavery Free Pledge Specific to our organisation. ○ Write up a Directory of Speakers for meetings and events ○ Clubs to look at using Ben and Phil’s Videos ○ Each Region in SIGBI to collate contacts in relevant agencies with whom we could liaise. ○ Use International Days - UN International Day for the Abolition of Slavery - 2nd December, UN World Day against Trafficking in Persons (especially women and children) - 30th July; Shine the Light on Slavery Day - 25th February, World against Child Labour - 12th June. • Liz reiterated that there is a need for members to step forward to assist and support Janice in moving these forward. <p>ACTION Members to contact members with an interest and ask if anyone would like to help the Modern Day Slavery Sub-Group in taking forward recommendations from the Study Day – 17 April – advise Janice direct.</p>	ALL
5	<p>SPECIALIST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liz advised that Christine had sent her apologies but that her report had been tabled. • Christine reported that she was disappointed that the outcome report from the investigations carried out by the Region had still not been received from the Police Service • Discussion ensued on how an overall report of this initiative could be taken forward by UKPAC. Liz advised that the thinking was to enlist the help of a student to carry this out for their dissertation. Further thinking on this was required, but should any member know a student who would be interested to contact Christine or Liz. <p>ACTION Members to ask Clubs if they know of any student who may wish to do this work as their dissertation. Please contact Liz or Christine for further information.</p>	ALL
6	<p>REPORTS FROM REGIONAL CHAIRS</p> <p>All chairs had been asked to provide a project number on which they wished to speak on during the meeting. A spreadsheet showing the number was uploaded to Dropbox. Opening the discussion, Chair Liz advised that on this occasion, members had to select a project that had “climate change” as its focus.</p>	

- **Cheshire Nr Wales and Wirral reported on Project 53891** –Eco Bricks. SI Anglesey chose to support students at the local Coleg Menai who use recycled materials to construct furniture and enhance their nature area. Members filled plastic bottles until they were completely rigid with plastic wrappers not collected for recycling. These bottles were then donated to the students at Coleg Menai to use in their construction projects. Square stepping stones were created from several bottles joined together for use in their nature reserve. Furniture was also created for this area.
- **London Anglia reported on Project 57011** – Tool kits for Women's Aid Refuge, Cambridge – Supporting this refuge for over 40 years, SI Cambridge Soroptimists knew they wanted some simple tool kits comprising hammer, screwdriver and selection of heads, pliers and an adjustable wrench These are useful for women leaving secure accommodation and setting up new homes -e.g. enabling them to hang pictures, mirrors etc. or make small repairs. Kits were ordered on line, taking delivery and making arrangements for these to be collected by the Women's Aid team. Women are now leaving the Refuge having a feeling of self-reliance.
- **London Chilterns reported on Project 58067** – 58067 Project Title: How can Women lead on Reducing Carbon Footprints? – A Climate Change awareness session highlighting the particular role women can play was held and attendees calculated their carbon footprint beforehand, using the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) tool. By focussing on 4 areas of domestic decision-making the Project seeks to highlight how subconsciously influential women can be in tackling climate change and thus, change behaviour. The feedback session identified common themes relating to the four WWF issues as follows - FOOD - provisioning, diet, wastage rate, packaging challenges STUFF - provisioning, replacement rate, supplier choice HOME ENERGY - consumption pattern, supplier choice, household v dwelling size implications TRAVEL - fewer flights, offsetting journeys, public not private transport options, electric vehicles, shorter journeys by bicycle or walking.
- **Midland Arden had selected Project Number 57310** – Representative sent her apologies
- **Midland Chase reported on Project 58214** - Global Challenges, Local Action - World Environment Day – SI Lichfield and District aim was to organise a webinar to celebrate World Environment Day & educate attendees through the provision of thought provoking & enlightening information related to environmental issues, both locally and globally. The aim was to educate empower all of us through the provision of thought provoking and enlightening information related to environmental issues with a greater understanding of the issues surrounding environmental concerns such as climate change, emissions, single-use plastic and what we can do about the various issues presented by 6 impressive & passionate speakers.
- **Midland East reported on Project 57777** – Planting SIGBI's first Miyawaki Mini Forest. To celebrate SI Nottingham's 85th anniversary and SI's Centenary the Club wanted to participate in 'Plant trees for a brilliant future'. The Club decided to plant a mini forest using the Miyawaki method - 400 trees planted in a space the size of a tennis court. Having a good relationship with Farm Eco, a farm run along environmental principles to be productive whilst working with nature, encouraging wildlife etc., the club was offered a plot for planting. Help was obtained in designing and setting out the plot, procuring the trees, plants and other materials. The Miyawaki method was chosen as the dense planting of trees and supporting vegetation leads to rapid growth thus mature trees can be obtained in 5 years. The quicker they grow, the quicker they help the environment

with all the attendant benefits. Fast growth does not diminish the sturdiness of the trees. The Club members worked with other bodies and recycled materials where possible. For example, once completed, a 10 cm layer of sheep's wool was laid as a mulch. The meeting enjoyed a video of the work undertaken by the Club.

- **NW England and IOM reported on Project 57591** –Plantlife Road Verge Campaign – SI Garstang supported Plantlife's Road Verge Campaign that encourages individuals to lobby their local councils to adopt a different management approach to transform local verges into wildlife havens. The Club signed their petition and wrote letters to its local councils, asking them to adopt Plantlife's guidelines for managing road verges to benefit wild flowers, bees etc. Not only does this encourage the preservation of flower filled verges, improving biodiversity, it also benefitted our local community, as connections with nature has been proven to have a positive impact on our mental health and wellbeing. To date, one parish council has improved their management of road verges for the benefit of wildlife, many more are reviewing theirs. Lancashire County Council reported they are trialling more wildlife friendly management practices.
- **Northern England reported on Project 56685** - Partnership Activity – Planting Hedging Saplings – SI Penrith and District recently worked in partnership with Ullswater Catchment Management to plant 60 hedging saplings to help control flooding. The Club wanted to do some tree planting during 2020 to celebrate its 60th Anniversary and it would also be a commemoration of the Soroptimist Centenary celebrations and this initiative would be doing work to help with controlling flooding in the area and also be good for the environment. SI Penrith applied to the Woodland Trust in late April 2020 for 60 free hedging plants which were to be used in a joint project with Sockbridge & Tirril Community Led Footpath Scheme. The Club was granted the free plants with delivery in Nov 2020. The week before they were due the land owner changed their plans leaving the Club with no site for the plants. Fortunately Ullswater Catchment Management, set up after the 2015 floods, came to our rescue, they offered to plant the saplings for us. The saplings were used to close the gaps in an old hedge on land at Matterdale, UCM.
- **Northern Ireland reported on Project 57167** - Tree Aid/Ecosia Talk - SI Lisburn Club invited Shireen Chambers MBE – Chairman – Institute of Chartered Accountants, to speak on how trees can help the planet and contribute to sustainable farming in drought ridden countries. She brought an unique perspective on a growing world problem and to learn about how important tree planting of indigenous trees are to women in sub-Saharan Africa and how they have brought prosperity to them and taken families out of hunger. The Club are planting trees to coincide with the SI Centenary celebration in order to help the environment in which members live.
- **Scotland North reported on Projects - 58109** - Spring Event supporting Grampian Women's Aid, Mental Health Aberdeen and Marie-Curie SI Aberdeen invited all member to participate at a Spring Event on International Day for Biodiversity The elements covered a) Demonstrating how single use plastic items can be reused in gardening e.g. food containers repurposed as seed trays, b) Prototype bug hotel - manufactured from milk containers 3 A plant sale - highlighting plants which increase biodiversity, c) A craft table - with some items made from re-cycled materials. All club members made the craft items and propagated plants. **58154** - Litter Picking on World Environment Day - SI Aberdeen on World Environment Day worked in 3 different places collecting litter in order to mark this day in a practical way. In all areas there was litter freshly discarded - including masks. On the beach

we found small pieces of nets bound into seaweed. This, we felt, was an environmental threat to sea birds.

- **Scotland South reported on Project 57986** – SI Kirkcaldy are working partnership and supporting Kinghorn Community Land Association whose goal is to create Fife's first eco cemetery and columbarium. The Association's first project is to raise the funds necessary to create the eco cemetery and this will be achieved through funding applications and private donations. These will support the creation of pathways and planting of native trees, flowers and shrubs; a planting scheme has been chosen to allow biodiversity and wildlife to thrive. SI Kirkcaldy has partnered with KCLA with the aim of planting trees at the Wild Meadow Eco Cemetery site to commemorate and celebrate Soroptimist International's Centenary. The Association has spoken to the Club about the Eco Cemetery plans and the planting, and received a donation of £100 towards wild flowers. Currently, the Club has applied for 420 Woodland Trust community trees native to Scotland and assist with planting.
- **South East England reported on Project 58161** - SI Tunbridge Wells Plant Soroptimist Centenary Beds in Dunorlan Park. As part of SI Tunbridge Wells & District local networking and close relationship with Tunbridge Wells Parks, the club was offered the chance to plant bedding arrangements in and around the town in Soroptimist colours as part of the 2021 planting season. While working on the beds in Dunorlan Park, members of the public stopped to ask about Soroptimists and to thank members for their contribution to enhancing the local environment.
- **South Lancashire reported on Project 58134** - Climate Action 1 - SI Bootle and District recognise that climate change is at a crisis level and a lot of discussions are taking place globally but actual action on an individual basis is slow and they want to reduce their carbon footprint. Members wished to improve their awareness on climate matters and they decided to take a series of steps. Firstly they signed up to the Ecosia search engine to support tree planting globally. Although they have planned their tree planting locally, it is clear that the effects of this will take many years to have an impact. Members continued to research relevant website, attended many webinars and zoom meeting where climate was discussed so as to improve their awareness. A Global Warming quiz was held together with a comprehensive discussion on individual actions to assess members' knowledge & enthusiasm. A document was compiled with factual information & a questionnaire that encourages members to take little but effective steps in changing their lifestyle. **Project 57903** - Plant Trees - SI Widnes partnered with the Woodland Trust, and the Halton Borough Council Parks Department to plant 105 wildwood tree saplings in St Michael's Eco Park, Widnes. The Club wanted to contribute to SIGBI/SI's tree planting project in celebration of the centenary as well as contributing to the fight against climate change. The area selected was previously a golf course, however, it was closed down in 2004 on the advice of the Health Protection Agency as arsenic was found in the ground from a time when the land was used for landfill. The land has since been cleaned up and HBC would like to return the land to its natural state for locals to enjoy. The wildwood selection of trees was ideal to fill gaps in the present flora, which would encourage and support wildlife and increase biodiversity.
- **South West England and Channel Island reported on Project 57882** - Environmental Sustainability – SI Cirencester and District Club President chose this theme at the start of her 2 year term. An introductory paper headed "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" was prepared by our Club Secretary, Margaret Headen, with

suggestions for members. Climate change and its implications is one of the most important problems of to-day. "Reduce, Reuse and Recycle" were ways of how we could act in a small way in our own lives. Members fed in ideas and schemes over the 2 years. And these included - cutting down on plastics, where to recycle goods, using alternative products, e.g. Splosh products, real soap, bottled milk from a milkman. The Head of Climate Change from the local district council was a speaker in October 2020. Some members signed the Greenpeace petition in January 2021 for supermarkets to stop using plastics. The Club supported the petition against pesticides affecting bees. The Club encouraged members and others to live more sustainably, and follow news on climate change and the environment.

- **Southern England reported on Project 58173** – Ecobricking- containing single use plastic. A PowerPoint was given by Gail Thomas a member of SI Bournemouth who are making Ecobricks which are plastic bottles filled with clean non-recyclable single use plastic (SUP) in small pieces, packed densely so each weighs a minimum of 330 gm/ litre- the heavier the better so they are solid. The 'bricks' can be used in making a variety of structures and are authenticated by 'gobrik' online to ensure quality. The club has been making these for some time and actively looks for local projects to support. The process contains SUP so that it does not end up in landfill or our oceans. Reducing pollution by single use plastic and repurposing it to positive benefit for the planet. The Planet Group lead for SIB undertook an online ecobricking course in August 2020 and provided guidance for club members, who were already making ecobricks, to ensure the bricks being produced met international standards. Members have found it challenging to achieve the required density but are improving. Looking for sites to place these is ongoing but, a women's refuge nearby is doing a gardening project and may use the bricks in creating raised beds that the children can tend.
- **Wales South reported on Project 56668** – Tree Planting in Sketty, Swansea was carried out SI Swansea Soroptimists who took part in the planting of an orchard and bird friendly hedges on church land. The Orchard Trust educated us in a practical way on how to plant the trees and how to give them the best start for future health and growth to help save the planet. This empowered us to do the work and enabled the community to grow fruit to eat in the future. Education in future maintenance and pruning of the trees will be given and other Soroptimists will be more engaged when lockdown allows. The project was chosen as a part of a bigger Eco project at St Paul's Church in Sketty, Swansea to encourage the community to grow fruit and nuts and also encourage wildlife and birds in the church field. It educates all in growing food and gives a sense of community spirit. It empowers people to do the same in their own gardens. The church grounds are underused and it is a way to provide for the community and increase their health and well- being and help tackle climate change. 25 trees, 36 fruit bushes and 100 bird friendly bushes were planted.
- **Yorkshire reported on Project 56961** – "5P2P" project was to raise awareness of and funds to twin toilets, this project promotes the 5 P's People, Plant, Partnership, Prosperity and Peace. This is a project that has been supported previously by individual members, but felt it was something that all members could support especially at this time of international crisis. All members were asked to count the number of times they visited the bathroom, for a day, multiply this by 30 x 5p and donate this amount to the project. Many family and friends also participated. The result of this project was that money was raised to twin, individual toilets, blocks of toilets and taps. The details are:
*Twin Blocks in Chicocoa Guatemala, Sikre District, Nepal & Rumph District,

	<p>Malawi *School blocks in Nkhombole Rumphu Malawi & Tando Allahyar, Sindh Province, Pakistan *Latrines in Alunguli Maniema, Democratic Republic of Congo, Poliedouo, Bouna, Cote D'Ivoire & Panyagor Kongor, Twic East, South Sudan *Block Cox's Bazar Bangladesh, refugee camp, for Rohingya refugees from Myanmar</p> <p>In addition Yorkshire Evening Post included a full page article which was followed by Wakefield Express Loo fundraiser in Wakefield to help buy toilets for poor people across the globe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yvonne Freeman - Assistant Programme Director SIGBI Ltd – Partnerships reported on Project 58160 - SI Liverpool Plant 100 Trees in Princes Park, Toxteth, Liverpool. • As a great example of Partnership working. SI Liverpool members decided that it would be a fitting activity to celebrate 100 years of Soroptimism by planting 100 trees in a significant site in Princes Park, Toxteth, Liverpool (an English Heritage Grade II* Park). The club partnered with the 'Friends of Princes Park' (FOPP), a small registered charity that possesses expert knowledge of the park and the management of the woodland, who were delighted to receive the club's donation and they planned together during a difficult period of COVID-19 lockdown to create the conditions suitable for planting. • Liz thanked everyone for their input and all agreed that having a common theme was an excellent way to raise awareness of what is happening on climate action. <p>ACTION <i>Maureen to upload the presentation onto Dropbox</i></p>	MM
7	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>7.1. Dates of Nest Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The dates of the meetings are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 23 October 2021 – via Zoom ○ 29 January 2022 – via Zoom ○ 26 March 2022 – Face to Face – Solihull ○ 3 September 2022 – via Zoom ○ 27 October 2022 – Face to Face – Belfast. <p>NB Zoom meetings will start at 10.00am</p> <p>7.2 Programme Focus Report Forms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lindsay advised that Clubs needed to send their photos and videos to the SIGBI HQ for the attention of Selina, as the database word document/video link is not working • Kay advised that HQ are aware of this and are working to resolve the matter. <p>ACTION <i>Members to advise Clubs to check their projects on line and if the videos and photos are not seen, then they should send these to selina@sigbi.org</i></p> <p>7.3 COP26 – November 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kay advised that 4,000 applications had been received asking for display space in Glasgow. • This list has been shortened but it is still a long list and SIGBI application is on this list. SIGBI will not know until mid-August. It will be displayed for one day only and should our application be approved, then decisions on what to show will be 	ALL

required and made by the FPAT.

- Some details for people attending are required –such as they have to fully vaccinated and arrangements are being made to carry out test and trace.

7.4 CEDAW

- Liz advised that she wanted to clarify any confusion that there was with regard to climate change and CEDAW. She referred member to CEDAW General Recommendation 37 on gender related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change and quoted

“The categorization of women and girls as passive “vulnerable groups” in need of protection from the impact of disasters is a negative gender stereotype that fails to recognize the important contributions to disaster risk reduction, post-disaster management and climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies that women are already making.

Well-designed disaster risk reduction and climate change initiatives that provide for women's full and effective participation can advance substantive gender equality and women's empowerment, while ensuring that sustainable development, disaster risk reduction and climate change objectives are achieved. It should be underlined that gender equality is a pre-condition for the realisation of the sustainable development goals”.

- Liz further advised that there are 6 Action Coalitions. Action Coalitions are global, innovative, multi-stakeholder partnerships that are mobilising Government, Civil society, International Organisation and the private sector to:
 - Catalyse collective action
 - Spark global and local conversation among generations
 - Drive increased public and private investment
 - Deliver concrete, game-changing results for women and girls

Based on human rights principles, and through a data-driven process of consultation with international feminist groups, grassroots activist organisation, government and other partners, the selected themes of the Generation Equality Action Coalitions are:

1. Gender-based Violence
2. Economic justice and rights
3. Bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)
4. Feminist action for climate justice
5. Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality
6. Feminist movements and leadership

In addition, a Compact on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action will work to drive action and resources towards this Agenda.

Liz thanked everyone for attending, members commented that they were very pleased with having one theme for the reporting and they felt that this should continue.

The meeting closed at 3.15pm.

Signed

Date