SIGBI News Briefing
18 December 2020

This Newsletter is for all SIGBI Club Members and is emailed by SIGBI HQ to Club Secretaries on the 1st and 3rd Friday of every month.

News from SIGBI HQ

SIGBI HQ Christmas Closure

SIGBI HQ will be closed from 14.00 GMT on 23 December 2020 and will reopen at 08.00 hrs GMT on 4 January 2021.

We wish all our Members a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

SIGBI Policies and Procedures

The Board of SIGBI Limited are continuing to review Federation Policies and Procedures in 2021, to build upon the work undertaken last year and to ensure that all documents are fit for purpose and provide clear guidance for members. The aim is to reduce, streamline and cross-reference documents where possible. Clubs will be informed of updates throughout the year and new/amended documents will be uploaded onto the relevant pages of the SIGBI Website.

However, this is going to take some months and the Board asks for your understanding whilst this exercise is being undertaken. In the meantime, if you have any questions regarding a policy or procedure, please email hq@sigbi.org.

Benevolent Fund donations and legacies

This year has been a difficult one for everyone and Soroptimists are no exception. The Benevolent Fund has received more applications this year and we have been pleased to help more members in need.

If you are considering a donation this Christmas, please do consider making it to the Benevolent Fund. We rely heavily on donations or legacies to enable us to continue our work, and would appreciate any amount you are able to donate. Please read the message below from the Chairman, Jenny Vince, and visit the SIGBI Website for more information on the Benevolent Fund:

- Christmas Message from the Benevolent Fund Chairman
- Benevolent Fund page on SIGBI Website

COP 26 and SIGBI Day of Action 2021

COP 26 is the 26th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and will be attended by countries that signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) - a treaty agreed in 1994. It should have been held in November 2020, but was postponed and will now go ahead 1-12 November 2021 in Glasgow. We will give more information about this as it becomes available.

The SIGBI Day of Action 2021 will focus on Climate Change (again, this was scheduled for this year but was superceded), and will be held on Saturday 17 July 2021. In particular, how does climate change affect women and girls? Climate Change has an impact across all the Ps and SDGs. We will provide more data and a toolkit in 2021.

Photo of the Month November 2020

Congratulations to Mullingar & District Soroptimists, our November 2020 Photo of the Month winners. They are pictured here with the Friar/Monks which were installed by the club 20 years ago. They marked the occasion by protecting them from the virus with orange masks.

The Friar/Monks have a regular feature in the local paper, including their picture and some weekly news.

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UKPAC Page on Members’ area of website

Liz Dominey, UKPAC Chairman, explains what UKPAC does and how it works in her message below.

The main focus is on Violence Against Women, with a particular emphasis on Domestic Abuse, Modern Day Slavery and the reform of the Justice System.

To ensure transparency with members, minutes of the monthly meetings, and associated reports, together with minutes of other Organisations at which UKPAC has representation, have now been published on the members’ area of the website. Log into the members’ area before following the link:

- Message from Liz Dominey, UKPAC Chairman
- UKPAC page in members’ area of SIGBI Website
Members of SI Southport invited their Friendship Links to join them for a Virtual Friendship Evening. Soroptimists from Lisburn, N. Ireland; Dhanmondi, Bangladesh; Caserta, Italy; Gdansk, Poland; Horsens, Denmark; Windermere and District, England gave a brief account of their clubs, cities and projects undertaken during the pandemic. Candles were lit to celebrate each friendship link, and a PowerPoint was given on “Southport, the Club and the town”.

Crosby Soroptimists travelled virtually to Yorkshire in the UK and Italy to meet their friends from the Friendship Link clubs of SI Keighley and SI Jesi. At the pre-Christmas party the Soroptimists of Keighley enjoyed a professional reading of ‘A Sky Full of Clouds’. A quiz, songs and poems followed by a bumper raffle draw and food were enjoyed by all.

SI Glasgow City recently celebrated its 10th Anniversary. The benefits of celebration on the digital platform had more guests than would have been likely if the club had lunch in a Glasgow hotel. The club was joined in their celebrations by their Friendship Link clubs from Bangor, Northern Ireland; Norwich and Newcastle upon Tyne in England; Antwerp, Belgium; Calgary and Vancouver, Canada and Mornington Peninsula in Australia. Glasgow City was delighted by the presence of SIGBI President Johanna Raffan.

Soroptimist Rose

Now is the time to order your Soroptimist Rose. This autumn (2020) we have just 25 bare-rooted roses available. The cost remains at £12.95 each, post/packing is £4.95 for one rose or £6.95 for 2-4 plants to the same address.

A Soroptimist Rose in a pot is still £14.95 and delivery is £9.75. More roses in pots to the same address will be £2.75 each. Roses are extremely well packed for delivery.

Order from: Peggy Simson at pegsimson@gmail.com – telephone 01628 523386. All profits from the sale of the Soroptimist Rose go to SI Thames Valley’s charities.

See more Club recommended items at www.sigbi.org/sigbi-shop/club-retailing/.

SIGBI Trading Ltd Retailing

Order from the SIGBI Shop when it suits YOU

You can order from the online SIGBI Shop over Christmas, and your orders will be dealt with in early January. There’s no need to wait for SIGBI HQ to re-open.

The envelopes and stamps will be dispatched commencing 4 January 2021, so get your order in now—details of these products below.

If you are waiting for your Centenary brooch, please note that the brooches have been very popular and therefore we have had to order more. Due to COVID-19 our Supplier has informed us that there will be a slight delay, please be assured that SIGBI HQ will despatch all brooch orders as soon as possible.

Look out for more Centenary items in the New Year.

- www.sigbishop.com

Centenary Envelopes and Stamps

Order your Centenary envelopes and stamps now for delivery in January 2021.

The commemorative envelope, which comes in two designs, is priced at £12.50 plus P&P and makes a perfect memento or gift. The matching stamps are available in sheets of 10 or 20, priced at £25.00 and £45.00 plus P&P respectively.

Order online or by using the special order form: stamps/envelopes order form.

Weblinks

- Human Rights Day - 10 December 2020
- International Universal Health Coverage Day - 12 December 2020
- The role of women in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights