



Website: <https://sigbi.org/midland-east/>

Welcome to Sorooptimist International Midland East Region (SIMER) Immediate Past President's End of Year Report



Dear SIMER members

To summarise my year in office, I am pleased to pen my final report to wish you and your family a safe and happy year. I welcome Jo Holdway to take up presidency of our region and wish her all the very the best for her year.

When I was nominated as president of SIMER in 2020 to 2021, I looked forward to my year with great excitement and anticipation because the presidential year coincided with the SIGBI centenary.

I began to plan for my year, immediately and decided, I wanted to complete a project to celebrate the anniversary. My first thought was a calendar to usher in the centennial year. That soon evolved to a centenary recipe book. I started my planning for these projects before becoming president of the region.

I also decided that I would seek the best possible speakers I could achieve, to present at the three regional meetings that would occur in my term to align with the SIGBI centenary themes. My theme reflected this **'Celebrating our work and valuing our environment'** I am happy to say that I believe that on both fronts my planning achieved my goals, despite having to change one of the speakers, at short notice.

The first project, was the calendar that was sold by December 2020 and raised over £1700.00 which has been used to support the Diamond Educational Trust to £1200.00, £250.00 went to the benevolent fund and £250 went to the disaster fund. I also have to state that I found that project exciting as it was a collaboration between myself and the twelve regional clubs who were celebrated in the calendar.

Little were we to know that 2020 was to be the start of a significant period in the history of the world; due to the onset of a global pandemic and the profound effect it would have worldwide, nationally, locally and upon the daily lives of each of us. The national lockdown came as a serious shock to a very interconnected world and many of us had minimal contact with friends and family.

The effect on a sorority such as ours was devastating as we lost the personal contacts with sisters and friends in the organisation and that's where parts of the interconnected world swung in our favour as we like much of humanity had to adapt to what first was thought to be a life threatening event.

That shocked our sensibilities in many ways as we watched with mounting horror the spread of the pandemic and its inexorable progress to our continent, country and finally our street.

We have lost family, friends and sisters to this sinister disease. We then marvelled at the alacrity at which science responded and started to challenge the unknown disease and it's causes and treatment.

To see the speed at which the vaccines were developed and that brought hope for all of us. In that arena, I had to rapidly adapt as face to face meetings fell by the wayside.

Also, I had to rearrange all the meetings that had been set up and look at how we could engage with our guest speakers. Given these considerations we all actively moved into engaging with the modern tools available using Zoom, email, text, WhatsApp, social media including Facebook. As a result we held online meetings with great effect, and our guest speakers also gave us great presentations online.



1st ZOOM SI MIDLAND EAST REGION MEETING
 Chaired by SIMER President Kam Britland with her new team of officers
Saturday 14th November 2020

Our Soroptimist International Midland East Region (SIMER) President 2020 – 2021 Mrs Kam Britland.

I am proud to represent the diversity of our organisation. Soroptimism has been part of my life for the last 18 years, during which time I have served as club president on two occasions and committed to programme action at my own club SI Mansfield & District.

In these difficult times, I take up my presidency with vigour at the challenges during this global pandemic. That we face these challenges together, seeking to assist and to make the world a better place speaks volumes about our membership. Building Back Better for the future maintaining our core values is therefore, in my opinion important to remind ourselves of those principles in this our centenary year. My theme will reflect this 'Celebrating our work and valuing our environment'.

In doing that, as a Sisterhood, we shall engage in a friendly, co-operative and transparent way to have fun whilst fulfilling our objectives.

Meeting Agenda 14.11.20

1. Welcome by President Kam
2. President's Address
3. Soroptimist Vision & Mission
4. Roll Call & Apologies
5. Minutes of Last Meeting (Nov 2019)
6. President Elect Jo Holdway's Report
7. Updates from officers - Finance, Programme Action, Membership, Federation Council & Safeguarding.
8. Virtual conference 2020 - members' reflection by Sandra Angood (SI Peterborough) and Kath Whittingham (SI Mansfield & District)
9. 1st Speaker: SIGBI President Johanna Raffan MBE
10. 2nd Speaker: Jane Walker MBE - CEO Purple Community Fund

Speakers:
 Johanna Raffan MBE
 Jane Walker MBE

SI MIDLAND EAST REGION MEETING
 President Kam Britland welcomes you to join us for
International Women's Day
 (members and guests to dress up for the occasion either in International costume or their best dresses)
Saturday 6th March 2021

Featuring Guest Speakers

11.30am-11.45am
 Cathy Cotteridge,
 SIGBI President Elect

and

12.30pm-1.00pm
 Dr. Carina Tyrrell,
 British-Swiss public health physician and a research scientist fellow at Cambridge University

The meeting officially starts at 10.00am with a welcome by President Kam, officers reports and an update by Jacqui Purrell on centenary tree planting. There will be contributions from six clubs - SI Amber Valley, SI Buxton, SI Cheshire, SI Derby, SI The Dukeries and SI Kettering. The meeting concludes at approximately 1.30pm. For access to the zoom meeting ID please email: simidlandeastregion@gmail.com before 5th March 2021.

SI MIDLAND EAST REGION MEETING
AGM Via Zoom 26th June 2021
from 10.00am-1.30pm
 President of SI Midland East Region welcomes members to our AGM.

Our Guest Speakers

Dame Vera Baird DBE QC
 Vera is a British barrister. She was appointed Victims' Commissioner for England and Wales in June 2019. An update on the Domestic Abuse Act, as it is now law and DV Courts Observation Project including any current reports.

Laura Furness
 Laura is the Head of Engagement at Royal Society for Public Health. Leading engagement approach, creating opportunities to listen to and share with stakeholders, including members of the public to improve the public's health through awareness, education and policy.

AGM

- Nomination of Officers
- Region officers reports and updates
- 6 clubs - 2/3 mins presentation or poem of centennial celebrations or tree planting initiatives. SI Leicester, SI Lincoln, SI Loughborough, SI Mansfield, SI Nottingham & SI Peterborough.

Date of Next Regional Meeting: 20th November 2021

Effectively, the Covid outbreak has forced us to reappraise how we meet. I know going forward that meetings will be in hybrid formats with some face to face and others online. I do hope we utilise this new strength to raise our profile and increase our membership as new younger members will grasp our use of technology with eagerness as it will allow them to take part in a more attractive manner to them.

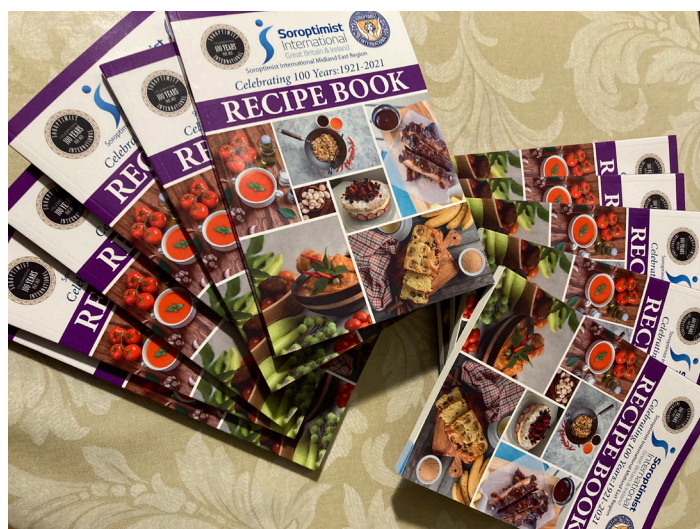
Finally, to my last project which is the Centenary recipe book which has been completed and printed. So far, I have over 200 orders and it is also being marketed on the SIGBI online shop. I hope that the project will raise about £2,500.00 for the SI Presidents Appeal 2021-2023 'Opening Doors to a Bright Future'.

If you are interested in purchasing a copy of the recipe book please email kam_britland@hotmail.com or visit our SIGBI online shop.

Here are some of the highlights ...

- 3 regional meetings (above) all on zoom
- Membership video created by Lisa Barrett, SI Nottingham based on Membership Director's briefs for membership month in May.
- Attended two virtual conferences both in October.
- List of celebration of clubs charter anniversaries I attended :-
 - SI Lincoln afternoon tea at Lake Farm in June.
 - SI Loughborough at Kate McLaughlin's lovely home in July.
 - SI Nottingham afternoon tea at Colwick Hall in August.
 - SI Mansfield charter dinner at Hostess Restaurant in October and launch of recipe book.

- Join SI Dukeries at the art society.
- Distribution of recipe books.
- Tree planting with SI Nottingham on 18th April – Sat service and volunteering at the Farm Eco, the concept based on the Miyawaki method of creating a mini forest.



- National Memorial Arboretum unveiling of the SIGBI statue on 18th September and Afternoon tea.

During the afternoon tea, Isobel Smith thanked Ann Keepax for her hard work and support during the project. There was a message of support and thanks given by Maureen Maguire, SI President-Elect and Cathy Cottridge, SIGBI President.

Many, many thanks to all who donated and allowed this lasting memorial to be commissioned in celebration of SIGBI volunteers and our work to improve the lives of women and girls.

I hope many more members will visit the National Memorial Arboretum, enjoy the environment and feel proud of our presence there.

Farewell to Soroptimists we lost this year - Johanna Raffan, Hazel Thompson, Lorraine Lee, Val Vasper and Myra Sherwood and of course, those I may not have known in other regions. We shall remember them and their contribution to Soroptimism.

Whilst we lost some members, we have also gained new members in some regional clubs.

Lastly, I look to the future and believe the region has prospered and all members will continue to support the region going forward.

Here's to the next 100 years!



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