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<p>Catherine Waller 2009 – 2010</p> 	<p>Nurse Educationalist</p>	<p>A further fund-raising event was held in Chester-Le-Street for the Lazarus Home for Girls in Bethany on the West Bank outside Jerusalem (£273.55). After nine years of club support to this project, it was agreed to discuss what our future with their progress might be.</p> <p>A Bag of requested items for the use of homeless and destitute women has been completed and passed to the Salvation Army who run a facility for victims of sexual exploitation in the Durham area.</p> <p>Club members continued (for the 8th year) with their practice of supplying 30 Christmas Gift Bags for the women users of the Joseph Cowen Healthcare Centre.</p> <p>A speaker gave a presentation on the redevelopment of Exhibition Park. This was of special interest due to the Club's involvement in the Sensory Garden with Newcastle Society for Blind People.</p> <p>£285 was raised at an Auction held at the home of Kath Shearer. The theme was 'Bubbles' - alcoholic and toiletries!</p> <p>Monday 8th March was International Women's Day. The theme was 'Bridges' to link together and raise awareness of the U.N. Millennium goals and pledges. Members and others marched under the</p>	<p>SIGBI Conference in Cardiff with a memorable press & publicity event with 'Bra's in the Bay'</p>	<p>Prime Minister: Gordon Brown</p> <p>Swine Flu Pandemic - by December 2009 over 208 countries affected with 12,220 deaths.</p> <p>U.K. formally ends combat in Iraq.</p> <p>January 2009 - Barack Obama becomes the first Black American President</p>

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		<p>Tyne Bridge and stood on the new Millennium Bridge at 1.0pm. Following this demonstration, everyone returned to the Sage where stalls and information on women's projects</p> <p>The 72nd Annual Charter Lunch was held at the International Centre for Life and Patricia Gatherum spoke on the Federation "Project Sierra" and David Burgess spoke on his VSO work in Ethiopia. £460 was raised for Project Sierra.</p> <p>In August a massive collection of real fur coats and hats was collected and donated to the Great North Air Ambulance. Most charity shops will not accept these items and members no longer wished to wear them.</p> <p>1st August 2009 - a summer lunch was held in Peebles with our friendship link club S.I. Glasgow West.</p> <p>Fund raising events were held to raise funds for the International Rescue Corps who spoke to the club in July 2009</p>		

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<p>Joan Macbeth 2010 – 2011</p> 	<p>Therapist in alternative therapies.</p>	<p>President Joan chose two charities for her year: The Percy Hedley Foundation and MENCAP. She personally undertook two very daring feats when she abseiled off the Malmaison Hotel on the Quayside (on 4 July for MENCAP raised £1,127 and on 12 February raised £348 for Percy Hedley).</p> <p>It was agreed that any Business would be dealt with at Club Meetings and the practice of holding monthly Executive meetings was stopped.</p> <p>Our 73rd Annual Charter Lunch at the International Centre for Life had Jacqueline Henderson C.B.E. as our speaker who talked on 'Skills & Diversity'.</p> <p>A New Year Auction was again held and raised £450 this year with the theme of Boxes and Bottles.</p> <p>The Joseph Cowen Healthcare Centre was supported all year with regular donations of clothing, toiletries and beverages. This year, no Christmas Gift Bags were donated but two car loads of mince pies, cakes and festive food together with luxury hot drink ingredients were delivered well before Christmas.</p> <p>Violence Against Women: we joined the regional response to a request from the</p>	<p>SIGBI Federation Conference was held in Manchester this year when our member Florence Kirkby became S.I. Northern England Regional President.</p> <p>Regional President Florence's first Regional Meeting in November 2010 had to be cancelled due to snow and bad weather conditions.</p>	<p>Prime Minister: Coalition Government with David Cameron and Nick Clegg.</p> <p>Julia Gillard becomes the first female Prime Minister of Australia.</p> <p>The first 'Instagram' posts are made on social media.</p> <p>An earthquake in Christchurch, New Zealand causes great damage.</p>

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		<p>Jarrett Community of the Salvation Army to donate bags of essentials for women who were victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation. We agreed to supply 2 Bags per year and an additional £90 was sent to the regional fund for the 'shoppers' to fill emergency bags when needed.</p> <p>International Women's Day celebrated 100 years on 8th March. We supported an event organised by the Women's Institute in the Turbine Hall of Castle Gate. Many stalls and activities attracted women to attend throughout the day.</p>		

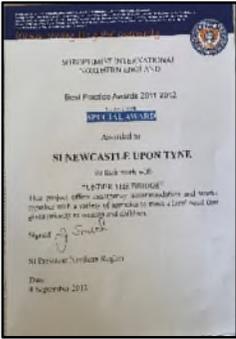
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<p>Maggie Stewart 2011 - 2012</p> 	<p>International Educational Dimensions and school support.</p>	<p>President Maggie's year saw several changes in the club's meeting venue. We moved from MEA House to use the Board Room of a firm of Solicitors where a member worked. From there we moved again to the City of Newcastle Golf Club where there was plentiful free car parking, a larger meeting room and the facility of having bar meals prior to our meetings, all at an affordable hire charge.</p> <p>The President's Charity this year was for the new 'Maggie's Centre for Cancer Care' to be built at Freeman Hospital. There were many raising events during the year and a total of £3,086 was donated in April 2012.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund raising and other activities included: • Belly Dancing session with a supper. • World Food Day spent making 'cake pops' on a Halloween theme. • World Water Day with proceeds from a raffle and pledges based on personal water use. • 'Birthing in the Pacific' the International President's appeal - proceeds from raffles. • Continued support for the Joseph Cowen Healthcare Centre ('Under the Bridge') by monthly donations of new and old clothing for men & 	<p>The SIGBI Federation Conference was held this year in Brighton.</p> <p>The retiring Regional President Florence Kirkby handed over to incoming Regional President Jill Smith - both of S.I. Newcastle upon Tyne.</p>	<p>Prime Minister: David Cameron</p> <p>29 April 2011 was the wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton.</p> <p>Steve Job - founder of Apple - dies in California.</p> <p>Osama Bin Laden is killed by American</p>

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		<p>women, toiletries and beverages as well as £50 in money.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sponsored cycle ride (on the worst day in August) and a Bar-b-que. <p>The Club had a newly developed and up-to-date web site. A pop-up banner was purchased.</p> <p>The Club's Annual Charter lunch was held at the International Centre for Life with the speaker being Jon Jo McNamara talking about modern architecture - love it or leave it like Marmite</p>		

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<p>Kath Shearer 2012 – 2013</p> 	<p>Tribunal Officer</p>  	<p>This was the 75th anniversary year of S.I. Newcastle upon Tyne which was celebrated at our Annual Charter Lunch at the International Centre for Life. Federation President Pat Black was the guest of honour and prior to the Lunch she visited the Joseph Cowen Healthcare Centre and then planted a cherry tree in the garden next to the support living flats (under the Metro Byker Bridge). The speaker was Freda Thompson who spoke on women's lives in 1937.</p> <p>The club's activities this year included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • continuing support for the Healthcare Centre and apart from regular donations of clothing, toiletries and beverages, we donated 25 Christmas Gift Bags for the homeless women who use the Centre. Also, Lynda Smith (Manager of the Healthcare Centre) came and spoke to members about the challenges facing the Centre and its users. A donation of £1,000 was presented. • We had speakers from The Elders Council (Vera Boulter); The Newcastle Street Pastors (Sam Douthwaite); The Literary and Philosophical Society (Alma Devine); the challenges of early education in the West End (Jane 	<p>SIGBI Conference was in Belfast in 2012 with Jill Smith (SI Newcastle upon Tyne) as the outgoing Regional President.</p> <p>A dramatic event was held outside the Waterfront Hall in Belfast where Soroptimists and others held up the city's traffic for 5 minutes and listened to speeches from local legislators on the theme of 'STOP THE TRAFFIC' to raise aware of human trafficking.</p> <p>Regional President Jill Smith held her Regional Conference at the International Centre for Life with a lineup of outstanding speakers.</p>	<p>Prime Minister: David Cameron</p> <p>Queen Elizabeth II celebrates her Diamond Jubilee (60 years)</p> <p>The Summer Olympics were held in London with many Soroptimists being the 'Games Makers' volunteers.</p>

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		<p>Kinghorn); a very memorable talk on the Holocaust Memorial Day (Henry Ross)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We continued to provide two 'New Start Bags' for the victims of Human Trafficking and sexual exploitation who are cared for by the Jarrett Community of the Salvation Army.		

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<p>Mrs. Doreen Huddart 2013 – 2014</p> 	<p>Charity worker and Local City Councillor</p>	<p>There were many club activities surrounding President Doreen's wish to support a charity "Mental Health Matters". This organisation engages with its service users in the West End of Newcastle and wider venues on Tyneside.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A donation of £500 was presented to them at our Charter Lunch in November which helped to pay for 90 people to be fed over the Christmas and New Year holidays at their Community Cafe in Cruddas Park. • Additional fund raising for "Mental Health Matters" included a lunch party at President Doreen's home (£250); Dorothy Sisterson's Summer Lunch (£465); a coffee morning (£335); and the surplus from the Club's Annual Charter Lunch - together making a donation of just over £1,000. • The Joseph Cowans Healthcare Centre received many donations of clothes; toiletries and beverages over the year and an additional 25 Christmas Gift Bags for the women service users of the Health Care Centre. • £24 was sent to International Book Aid. • £45 was sent to Water Aid. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The SIGBI Federation Conference was held at the Sage Gateshead this year and Federation President Pat Black asked that all delegates bring a donation of a pair of new pants and new socks to form a lasting legacy to the Joseph Cowens Healthcare Centre in Byker. A total of over 3,500 items were donated by generous delegates. - - The SIGBI Federation Project was "Birthing in the Gambia" and £300 was raised by our Club and sent together with 201 knitted bonnets and 2 blankets. - - This was the year in which the SIGBI Membership rules changed so that ALL women were now able to apply to join and there were no 'Active' or Retired/Senior' classifications. 	<p>Prime Minister: David Cameron</p> <p>American scientists use a 3D printer to create a living laboratory grown ear from collagen.</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Club members entered a 5 year pledge (of £200 a year) with S.I. Kathmandu to support a girl (Kabita) through 5 years of education. This started when a club member hosted a member from S.I. Kathmandu over the period of the SIGBI Conference held at the Sage in Gateshead.• A collection of Long-Life foods was donated to a Food Bank following a talk about the "Fair Share" food scheme.		

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<p>Mrs. Jill Smith 2014 – 2015</p> 	<p>N.H.S. Manager</p> <p>Jill was also Regional President of S.I. Northern England in 2011-2012</p> <p>At the Club AGM in April 2014, it was agreed to reduce the amount of time spent on Business Items and to make one meeting a month a 'Programme Action' meeting in order to develop a range of activities. Agreed that there would no longer be a Presidents Charity but funds raised would go to a Programme Action Fund.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Joseph Cowen Healthcare Centre was supported by donations of clothing; toiletries and beverages. 25 Christmas Gift Bags were also provided together with a donation of £762.85 • The Christmas Fair held at the Ouseburn Farm was in aid of the Healthcare Centre. Club members ran a number of stalls including books; lucky dip; tom bola; raffle and craft items raising £342.81 • One of our members ran a number of food, cookery and nutrition classes for the women at the Healthcare Centre. • We sent our 2nd year pledge of £200 to S.I.Kathmandu for a girl's education. • A speaker from the 'Peoples Kitchen' resulted in a large collection of food to be used in the provision of meals for homeless people. • Olivia Giles was a speaker at the SIGBI Conference this year. She is a quadruple amputee and started a charity '500 Miles' which provides prostheses for amputees in Malawi. We joined in a 'Big Dinner' event on 7th March where we raised £160 to add to the national sum of £365,000 		<p>Prime Minister: David Cameron</p> <p>Ebola Virus in West Africa infects 28,616 with the deaths of 11,310.</p> <p>Estimated 276 women and girls abducted and held hostage from a school in Nigeria.</p> <p>2014 Commonwealth Games held in Glasgow.</p>

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<p>Ms. Christine Lowthian and Mrs. Kath Shearer 2015 – 2017</p> 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We supported the work of the Salvation Army's Trafficked Women's project and donated a "New Start Bag" for a woman victim on sexual exploitation. Club members undertook training to become Dementia Champions and learned much about the effects of Dementia and how we can support and communicate with those living with this condition. We continued to support a girl's education in Nepal through S.I. Kathmandu and this year sent £ 303.90 so that support could be given to Kabita and her family following the Nepal earthquakes in 2014. This sum was raised by a bric-a-brac stall at Tynemouth Station Market. Two 'New Start Bags' were supplied to trafficked women. The Salvation Army has now withdrawn this support service from County Durham and the Bags are now being prepared for Northumbria Police in their work with women victims of trafficking. A total of £375 was sent to Aqua Box in 2015 which paid for 2 Emergency Boxes, one for a community of 100 people and one for a family of 5. There were for 	<p>SIGBI Conference and Annual Meeting was held in Malta in November 2016.</p>	<p>Prime Minister: David Cameron until July 2016 and then Theresa May</p> <p>Earthquakes in Nepal with 8,857 deaths in April and a further 153 deaths in May.</p> <p>147 Nations attended the U.N. Climate Change Conference in Paris (COP21) and give a commitment to reduce carbon emissions.</p> <p>June 2016: The UK votes to leave the E.U. in a Referendum</p>



use immediately following such disasters as the Nepal earthquakes.

- Project Choice is a year long course funded by the NHS at Gateshead College. The students have learning and communication difficulties and the course prepares them for work and offers work placements 3 days a week. In each of the 3 terms, Newcastle members formed Mock Interview Panels and reported back to students on their performances.
- Flooding in Cumbria - £200 was donated to the Cumbrian Community Flood Fund following a series of floods both before and after Christmas 2015.
- STOP THE TRAFFK GIFT BOX was a joint initiative with 7 clubs (Newcastle; Darlington; Middlesbrough; South Shields; Sunderland; Tynedale and Tynemouth/Whitley Bay) and it ran from Friday 4th March to Tuesday 8th March 2016. This BOX was a giant piece of street art which was positioned in the window of Newcastle Central Library where it attracted about 700 visitors who learned about Human Trafficking. Outside the Box were invitations to travel the world and get well paid – but inside the Box were the stories of young women who had been trafficked for sexual exploitation.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Club continued to support the Joseph Cowens Healthcare Centre in Byker with donations of clothing; toiletries and beverages together with 25 Christmas Gift Bags for women service users in the Centre and Hostel. <p>The Club's 79th Annual Charter Lunch was held at the International Centre for Life with a speaker from the Great North Air Ambulance Service (Donation of £455.37)</p> <p>The second year of this Joint Presidency: 2016 - 2017:</p> <p>The Club programme of activities continues to offer members a range of projects and subjects to meet most members interests. The projects supported include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Joseph Cowens Healthcare Centre. • The education of a girl in Nepal with a table top sale at Tynemouth Station Market raising enough for the next 2 years of our £200 a year pledge. • Members joined in a protest against Modern Day Slavery in the Fashion and Textile Industry by embellishing fabric squares 		

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		<p>which were then stitched together, with those from other clubs, to form a 'Global Blanket' which was then presented to 10 Downing Street as part of the lobby activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Members campaigned with our local M.P.s for the UK Government to sign up to the Istanbul Convention Bill ratification and this was successful on 24 February 2017.• "New Start Bags" continue to be supplied to Northumbria Police for the use of trafficked women		

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<p>2017 – 2018</p> 	<p>N.H.S. Manager</p> <p>Club's 80th Anniversary year. Changes were made to the way the Club operates. There is no longer a 'President's Charity' but any funds raised will go direct into the 'Programme Action Fund' to allow donations to be made quickly and appropriately as decided by all members.</p>	<p>The Club's 80th Charter Anniversary was celebrated in November at the International Centre for Life with speaker Freda Thompson (a City Historian) describing day to day life for women in the 1930's. Over 100 members and friends attended.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The projects at the Joseph Cowens Healthcare Centre continue with regular donations of clothing, toiletries and beverages - and the 25 Christmas Gift • Bags. • We continued the financial support given to educate a girl in Nepal through S.I. Kathmandu. • 'Trauma Teddies' continue to be knitted and donated to Northumbria Police. • More 'New Start Bags' have been provided for the women victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation. Northumbria Police have also begun to request additional items that are needed by their women at the Victim's Hub. A Grant was applied for at the Hadrian Trust and £500 was received for this project. • During the summer of 2017, a major project was undertaken by club members who volunteered to observe and record sessions of 	<p>SIGBI became a registered Charity with the U.K. Charity Commissioners (number 1179433) and a Trading Company was formed to run the sales, promotions and Conference elements of SIGBI's business.</p> <p>It is noted that SIGBI Federation is the Charity and not the individual clubs unless they chose to become individual Charities themselves.</p>	<p>Prime Minister: Theresa May</p> <p>14 June 2017 the Grenfall Tower fire in west London resulted in 72 killed and 70 injured.</p> <p>Hurricanes in the Caribbean were some of the strongest ever recorded with over 3,000 deaths resulting .</p> <p>Theresa May negotiates for a withdrawal from the European Economic Community - called 'BREXIT' but unable to get British Parliamentary support for her</p>

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		<p>the Specialist Magistrates Courts on Domestic Violence. Two courts were covered (Bedlington & Gateshead) on every Wednesday during July, August and September. Training was given to the volunteers and the analysis of the standardised reporting forms was done by the Police and Crime Commissioners Office (Dame Vera Baird Q.C.) The volunteers recorded not only their observations of the Court process but also thoughts on how efficient the Court was and other comments. A Report with recommendations will be published in 2018.</p>		

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<p>Dame Vera Baird QC 2018 – 2019</p> 	<p>Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria. From March 2019 Dame Vera moved to a London based national appointment of the Victims' Commissioner. Dame Vera transferred her membership to the Greater London Club.</p> <p>The Club meetings were moved to Jesmond Community Library. Also, a new format for meetings with the 2nd Tuesday being a Programme Action meeting and the 4th Tuesday having a Business Agenda and speaker or activity.</p> <p>In May 2018 the revised laws on Data Protection (General Data Protection Regulations 2018) were enacted which produced necessary paperwork for the Club. It gave members the right to privacy over information held about members. The annual printed Club</p>	<p>Members agreed that the new format of meetings gave a greater focus on Programme Action and allowed greater participation of members in the club's programme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 5 year pledge of a girl's education in Nepal (with SI Kathmandu) was completed this year. However, SI Kathmandu requested a further 2 years of education sponsorship for Kabita as she had made such good progress. This was agreed and a further £200 a year to be set from 2019 to 2020. • The support for the Joseph Cowens Healthcare Centre continues with the regular donations and the 25 Christmas Gift Bags for homeless women who use the Healthcare Centre and the 24 hour access hostel. • Specialist Domestic Violence Courts - How Special are they? - this project covered a total of 223 cases over 300 observations. A report was published in August 2018 with recommendations. The main focus was on the defendant 'gaming the system' by pleading not-guilty to keep the victim from appearing in Court; lack of support (Independent domestic 	<p>Our club member Patricia Gatherum was the SIGBI Federation Ambassador for the 3 year project with the Meru Women's Garden Project in Kenya with child.org as a partner agency.</p> <p>The total amount raised was £161,741 which exceeded the target. £400 was donated by our club with Patricia also raising £600 at an event at her home.</p>	<p>Prime Minister : Theresa May to July 2019 and then Boris Johnson who has the campaign slogan of "Get BREXIT Done" and wins a landslide victory.</p> <p>The Miss America pageant ended its swimsuit competition.</p> <p>Women are allowed to drive in Saudi Arabia for the first time in history.</p> <p>Prince Harry and Meghan Markle are married in Windsor on 19 May 2019.</p> <p>Concerns about Climate Change become more vocal with the warning that increasing extreme weathers will raise the temperature of the earth by 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit by 2040. The start of civil disobedience by Extinction Rebellion, and others, takes place in London and Greta Thunberg, a teenager from Sweden, becomes a lead campaigner</p>

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	<p>Members Directory was discontinued and is now available on the Club's web-site and is password protected.</p> <p>The Club's Annual Charter Lunch was a very successful event when we all celebrated 100 years of Women's Suffrage. The speaker was Pat Stevens on "The Suffragettes and the Battle for Newcastle". Video clips of the time and a mock vote showed how much work there was still to be done to enfranchise all women.</p>	<p>violence advocates); and poor sentencing by Magistrates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a video of the Specialist Domestic Violence Courts was made at the Northumbria PCC office and performed live as a 3 minute 'lightening talk' at the national conference in London of the Chief Constables and Independent Police & Crime Commissioners in October 2018. • a further explanatory video has been produced by the Court Observers to help other Soroptimists to gain understanding about the skills and work needed to undertake such a project. Both of these videos have been shown at the UK Programme Action Committee to encourage other regions and clubs to participate in their own areas. • The club continues to supply 'New Start Bags' for the victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation. Also supplied was some therapy equipment for those victims using the Northumbria Police Victims Hub. A visiting Soroptimist from SI Bangkok gifted 4 New Start Bags. • 16 days of action of awareness of Domestic Violence: this promotion 		

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		<p>of the 'White Ribbon' campaign covered many public publicity opportunities with the Tynemouth Volunteer Life Brigade; the Gateshead Millennium Bridge and on pitch with Newcastle Falcons Rugby team.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 200 knitted Trauma Teddies have been donated to Northumbria Police for use with distressed children. • Period Poverty: the issue of girls not being able to attend school due to a lack of sanitary products has been hi-lighted this year. Apart from members collecting supplies, a joint event with the Chaplain of the Intu Metro Shopping Centre in Gateshead resulted in 10 large boxes of products going to both the West End Food Bank and the Gateshead Food Bank. • Research work has started on a Good Mental Health & Wellbeing day at the Metro Centre in November 2019 and also to raise the parity on Blue Plaques to commemorate notable women in the City. 		