



Section Six 1999 – 2009

President & Date	Profession & Achievements	Our Club	SIGBI Federation Activities	World Events
<p>Mrs. Heather Niven 1999 – 2000</p> 	<p>Director : Newcastle Society for Blind People.</p> 	<p>The President's Charity this year was the Sensory Garden in Newcastle's Exhibition Park. One of the major events to support this was a Millennium Celebration Lunch in the refectory at St.Nicholas Cathedral held on 29th January 2000. This event, together with other fund raising efforts raised £1,300 which was match funded by both Barclays Bank and the City. Also several grant applications were made which resulted in a total of over £12,000 which is needed to complete the sensory garden. The purpose of the sensory garden was to provide a local attractive place where visually impaired people might visit and enjoy.</p> <p>There were a number of interesting speakers during the club year - including :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr.Kevin Jones on the refurbishment of the City centre. • a visit to the new International Centre for Life. • Breast cancer • Mr.John Oddy of R.E.M.A.P. • Amnesty International on 'Street Children' and from the National Children's Homes. 	<p>SIGBI Federation Conference in Dublin.</p> <p>Federation President : Dr.Elizabeth Harrison</p>	<p>Prime Minister: Tony Blair</p> <p>1st April : a minimum wage is introduced throughout the UK - set at £3.60 per hour for workers over 21 and £3 for those under 21.</p> <p>1st July : the Scottish Parliament is officially opened by Queen Elizabeth II on the day that devolved powers are officially transferred from the Scottish Office in London to the new devolved Scottish Executive in Edinburgh.</p>


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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geoff Barber of English Nature spoke on 'Biodiversity in Newcastle' <p>Programme Action activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNICEF Learning Resource Boxes for schools in Sierra Leone together with a contribution for the repair of a school roof damaged in the civil war. • Christmas baskets for women at the Newcastle Women's Refuge. • The annual book prize for children at Kiling Nomma High School in Estonia • was continued and after the judging o of submitted entires, several books were sent for the winners. • An Aqua Box was again compiled from members donations. These boxes contain essential supplies for peoplewho have lost their homes in environmental disasters. • Donations were made to the SIGBI Benevolent Fund and to The People'sKitchen in our City. Also to MarieCurie and the Federation project in Kosovo. 		

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		<p>The 62nd Club Annual Charter Lunch was held at the Imperial Swallow Hotel in Jesmond where Mr. Keith Pimm (Project Coordinator) spoke on the Exhibition Park Community Partnerships, Newcastle Healthy City Project. In particular he described the work involved in establishing the Sensory Garden.</p> <p>During this year a project was chosen that would enable the Club to have an undeniable focus in the City. Funds were raised for a Community Sensory Garden in Exhibition Park, Newcastle. This was such a big project that the following President, Christine Lowthian, kindly agreed to continue this as part of her year of office</p>		


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<p>Ms Christine Lowthian 2000 – 2001 (Until November 15th 2001 as the President Elect, Jane Salt, was unable to take up the position as she was promoted in her job and moved to Leeds)</p> 	<p>N.H.S. Manager</p>	<p>Four main Programme Action Areas were:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limbs for Life • Breast Cancer Awareness • Community Sensory Garden • City Centre Development <p>The Sensory Garden was opened in July 2001. Other Club members gave their time supporting the planning, fundraising and project management of the Garden. One of the aims of this project was to provide a much needed destination for short outings by members of Newcastle Society for Blind People who were from the growing number of elderly people whose lives were affected by the isolation caused by age related sight loss. The Garden comprises of three raised beds which are positioned next door to the existing Cafe facility. The Society's Gardening Club members continue to care for these flower beds with regular outings to weed and refresh the plantings with annuals as well as perennial plants.</p> <p>Other Programme Action areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christine Tompkins judged the entries for the Estonian Children's Book Competition. 	<p>Federation President: Mrs. Hilary Shaw</p> <p>The Federation Conference was held in Cardiff</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P.M. Tony Blair • May 1st : Centre for life opened in Newcastle • May 11th – the billionth living person in India is born • June 26th – A preliminary draft of genomes, as part of the Human Genome Project, is finished. It is announced at the White House by President Clinton • September 15th – October 1st – the 2000 Summer Olympics, held in Sydney, Australia, is the last Olympic Games of the 20th century. • January 15th – Wikipedia is launched

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Club supported the Newcastle Women’s Refuge at Christmas • A quiz in February raised £139.56 • Dog Racing Night was held on March 17th raised £317.00. • The Club sponsored a young girl to wishing to become a teacher in Sierra Leone. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 19th – the 2001 United Kingdom foot-and-mouth outbreak begins. • April 1st -in the Netherlands, the Act on the Opening up of Marriage goes into effect. The Act allows same-sex couples to marry legally. • The September 11 attacks were a series of four coordinated terrorist attacks by the Islamic terrorist group al-Qaeda against the United States on the morning of Tuesday, September 11, 2001.


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<p>Mrs Christine Cottingham 2001 – 2003 From November 16th 2001)</p> 	<p>Tax Consultant Regional President of Northern England (1995 - 1996)</p>	<p>Christine joined S.I.Newcastle upon Tyne from S.I.Gateshead when it closed in 1999.</p> <p>One of her Presidential memories was of the hundreds of knitted 'Teddies for Tragedies' which were produced by Club members and their friends. Each Teddy had its own bag and they were distributed by various Aid Agencies who were working in overseas areas of conflict. Children who had been traumatised by their experiences, and who often had only the clothes they were wearing, were given their own Teddy with its bag to keep and hold their treasured small possessions.</p> <p>The President's Charity was The Lazarus Home for Girls in Bethany, Palestine.</p> <p>Talks included: the Riverside Project, the Newcastle and Gateshead Initiative, a City Guide (history and tales of Gosforth), the Leazes Park Project, Women at Risk in Newcastle, the Council for the Aged and the Newcastle City Council Asylum Seekers Unit.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federation President: • Mrs. Lynn Dunning (2001 – 2002) • The Northern England Region voted to support the completion and equipping of the medical centre at the DEWODE women's project in Uganda. • Federation President: • Dr. Joan Smyth CBE (2002-2003) • Federation Conference was held in Bournemouth in 2002 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PM: Tony Blair • The iPod is first introduced by Apple on October 23rd. • The Euro is officially introduced in the Eurozone countries.^[2] The former currencies of all the countries that use the Euro ceased to be legal tender on February 28th • February 6th • Queen Elizabeth II of the Commonwealth Realms celebrates her Golden Jubilee, marking 50 years since her accession to the thrones of the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

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		<p>Events included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a Garden Gathering (£360), a Supper Evening and a Coffee Evening. • Friendship Links with: Munich-Schwabing & Gelsenskirchen-Buer, Germany, Gotenburgh, Sweden, Tallinn, Estonia, Glasgow West and Ballymena. • Coffee Morning on July 6th at Christine Tarling's house in aid of the Bethany Project (raised £412). • Sensory Garden opened 11th July 2002 • Luncheon at Dryburgh Abbey with Glasgow West on August 10th 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19th March 2003 Iraq War begins • March 30th – death of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother • July 1st The Rome Statute comes into force, thereby establishing the International Criminal Court • April 14th – the Human Genome Project is completed, with 99% of the human genome sequenced to 99.99% accuracy





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<p>Miss Margaret Ayton 2003 – 2004</p> 	<p>Head of Nursing Development – Strategic Health Authority</p>	<p>The themes for 2003 - 2004 were 'Partnership and Looking Forward'. The President's charities were Limbs for Life, Breast Cancer Awareness and the neuro paediatric wards at Newcastle General Hospital.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the summer we supported the 'Missing Miles' walk (£80 donated); packed parcels for nurses and doctors in the Territorial Army stationed in the Gulf; and held a Dog Race Night (£600 raised). • 17th May: UNICEF Neonatal Tetanus Immunisation - £100 donated. • June 6th £2000 was donated to Lazarus House for Girls in Bethany. • A theatre outing was organised and members joined a focus group on 'Ordinary Ethics' at the International Centre for Life. • In the autumn, the club met S.I. Glasgow West at Eyemouth; held a Breast Cancer Awareness coffee morning and a Sharing Fair evening (£400 raised). 	<p>Federation President: Mrs. Ann Garvie</p> <p>Federation Conference was held in Belfast in 2003</p>	<p>PM: Tony Blair</p> <p>October 24 – Concorde makes its last commercial flight, bringing the era of airliner supersonic travel to an end</p> <p>February 4th - Mark Zuckerberg creates the social networking site Facebook.</p> <p>October 29th – European heads of state sign in Rome the Treaty and Final Act, establishing the first European Constitution</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In November, a Landmine Action Campaign in Eldon Square shopping centre collected 1600 signatures for the Landmine Action petition and raised awareness about unexploded remnants of war. • We hosted a cheese and wine evening with 'The Caprians' who provided Christmas words and music (£547.77 raised). Instead of our Christmas outing, we packed Christmas presents for women at the Byker Hostel. • During 2003 - 2004, we participated in three NHS public consultations and formed a focus group for Northumbria University on women carers. <p>We had a very productive year and this showed the power of Soroptimism in action.</p>		


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<p>Mrs Margaret Elliot (deceased) 2004 – 2005</p> 	<p>Research Administration: Finance (Newcastle University)</p> <p>Presenting cheque for £1168.85 to Liver North</p>   <p>Sensory Garden Plaque</p> 	<p>President's Charity 'Liver North'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talks and activities this year included: Trafficking of women and girls, working conditions of people in more exotic holiday locations, 'Life is a Beach', Travelling for all including the differently abled, work of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd helping Third World countries to develop skills and sell their goods at 'Fair Trade' prices, visiting Byker Housing Association Project to take Christmas gift bags, display in the City Library on the work of Soroptimists, continuing with the Sensory Garden Project. Providing Aqua Boxes Supporting the campaign to save mothers and babies from Tetanus Retired members sent £60 to the Carlisle Club to help flood victims, a £40 to the TSUMANI appeal and providing young patients in the ENT wards of local hospitals with video materials. 	<p>Federation President: Mrs. Janet Garnons-Williams</p> <p>Federation Conference was held in Bournemouth: Christine Tarling and Christine Cottingham received the Peace and Tolerance Award from Federation President Anne Garvie for S.I. Newcastle upon Tyne.</p> <p>Federation President's Project: Rwanda Appeal Federation President sent £10,000 pounds from the Emergency Relief Fund sent to TSUMANI appeal</p>	<p>PM: Tony Blair</p> <p>26th December – Several 150 British people are among the thousands of people killed by the devastated 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami in Asia during the Christmas holiday. The victims are killed in 14 countries, such as India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and Thailand are being severely affected.</p> <p>4th April – The Gender Recognition Act 2004 comes into effect, allowing transsexual people to have their reassigned gender legally recognized by law.</p>

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	<p>Peace and Tolerance Award certificate</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was agreed at the meeting on 8th February the Travel Scholarship Trust was to be wound up (£214.73) be donated to Samur (of Lazarus House) to help with travel. • July 5th Fund raising Camel Race held at the Byker Lodge. • 8th August Friendship Lunch with Glasgow West • 22nd August the club agreed to donate £50 to the Missing Miles charity <p>SI Newcastle won the International President's 'Peace and Tolerance Award' and £500 was donated to the Lazarus House for Girls in Bethany.</p>		




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<p>Mrs Christine Lowthian 2005 – 2006</p> 	<p>N.H.S. Manager</p>	<p>The club supported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music concert (organized by Margaret Elliot) on 16th April raised £515.75 • Tynemouth Market stall (organized by Margaret Elliot) raised £211.65 for Liver North. • A Strawberry Fair was held on July 2nd raised £390 • A cheque was sent to Ockenden International. • Lazarus House (£500) Members attended the annual dinner dance and auction at St James Park, the club selling £500 worth of raffle tickets. The raffle raised £3623 and the whole event £21,162.30. The members worked to providing uniforms for the girls. On February 18th a Tea Dance in aid of Lazarus House and S.I. was held. • At Christmas, parcels were packed for the homeless women supported by the Byker Bridge Housing Association. 	<p>Federation President: Mrs. Ann Dawson</p> <p>International Convention in Glasgow</p> <p>Federation Conference in Nottingham</p>	<p>PM: Tony Blair</p> <p>July 28th – the Provisional Irish Republican Army announces an end to the armed campaign it has pursued since 1969, and orders all its units to drop their arms</p> <p>October 19th – the trial of Saddam Hussein begins.</p> <p>November 13th – Andrew Stimpson, a 25-year-old Scottish man, is reported as the first person proven to have been 'cured' of HIV.</p> <p>November 22nd – Angela Merkel assumes office as the first female Chancellor of Germany</p> <p>November 30th –</p> <p>Surgeons in France carry out the first human face transplant with Isabelle</p>


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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retired members made a donation of £100 to the Great North Air Ambulance • A 'Green' Coffee Morning was held on March 18th raised £325. • Raffle tickets for WaterAid raised £30. • 2 members were honoured: Florence Kirkby awarded an Honorary Fellowship by Newcastle University for her services to education and Christine Tarling was awarded a Fellowship to the College of Occupational Therapists. 		<p>Dinoire becoming the first person to undergo it</p>

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<p>Ms Christine Lumsdon (nee Tarling) 2006 – 2007</p> 	<p>Occupational Therapist</p> <p>President Christine with the 34 Christmas bags for service users of Byker Bridge Housing Association</p>  <p>Wall hanging for Lazarus House</p> 	<p>Friendship links with S.I. Glasgow and S.I. Gothenburg</p> <p>Charities supported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £500 WaterAid • £500 Lazarus home for Girls in Bethany • £500 Jubilee Sailing Trust • £500 Lord Mayor's Centenary Charity Appeal • £50 to the Great North Ambulance • Byker Bridge Housing Association <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog Racing Night June (£545.70 was raised). • Summer Supper July 11th • Friendship Link lunch with SI Glasgow in Berwick on August 5th. • Women Walkers for Women's trek: club provided a picnic lunch on September 17th and raised £75. 	<p>Federation President: Dr. Hilary-Kay Young</p> <p>Federation Conference was held at the Sage, Newcastle upon Tyne. S.I. Newcastle participated in the Pink Link which raised funds for Breast Awareness.</p> <p>International President Lynne Dunning (who had a project in the Punjab Province, Pakistan: Project Punjab). SI Newcastle donated 6kg of coned machine wool towards the project which involved donating a knitting machine.</p> <p>Northern England Region sent £1,500 to the prison latrine project in Sri Lanka</p>	<p>PM: Tony Blair</p> <p>November 5th – former President of Iraq Saddam Hussein is sentenced to death by hanging by the Iraqi Special Tribunal. He is later executed by hanging for crimes against humanity on December 30th</p> <p>January 4th – Congress elects Nancy Pelosi as the first female Speaker of the House in U.S. history</p> <p>January 9 – Apple CEO Steve Jobs introduces the original iPhone at a Macworld keynote in San Francisco</p> <p>February 2nd – The IPCC publishes its fourth assessment report, having concluded that global climate change is "very likely" to have a predominantly human cause</p>



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	<p>More than 1000 Soroptimists 'painted' the Millennium Bridge pink to raise awareness of breast cancer as the climax to a month of fundraising.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coffee morning hosted by Christine Lowthian on 17th March raised £250. • 69th Charter Lunch • Christmas bags for Byker Bridge Housing Project were packed on December 12th. • New Year Auction of unwanted Christmas presents raised £393. • St. Patrick's Day green themed coffee morning on March 17th raised £500 for Lazarus home for Girls in Bethany. • March 3rd wall hanging was constructed to go to Lazarus House with the themes of Kindness, Love, Peace, Happiness, Joy, Laughter, Hope and Faith and roles the girls might aspire to: teacher, nurse, homemaker, receptionist and gardener. Local landmarks were included which were the Angel of the North and the 		

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		<p>bridges across the River Tyne.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coffee morning hosted by Christine Lowthian on 17th March raised £250. • Presentation on the work of WaterAid by Andrew Blackmore from Northumbrian Water on 23rd March. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ On 12th April an evening supper with the Lord Mayor of Newcastle in the Silver Gallery to support the Lord Mayor's Appeal. <p>Travel Scholarship Fund was wound up and the remaining balance was donated to the Trustees of the Lazarus Home for Girls.</p> <p>The club's housing fund was wound up. £1,976.13 remained and the decision on its use was deferred till May Business Meeting.</p>		





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<p>Mrs Janet Heal 2007 – 2008</p> 	 <p>November 2007 S.I Newcastle upon Tyne celebrated their 70th Charter Anniversary. Federation President Marguerite attended for the weekend in a Civic Reception in the Mansion House given by the Lord Mayor (Sir Peter Arncliffe) and his Lady Margerite, as well as a lunch at the Centre for Life.</p> <p>Charity worker</p>	<p>The club's housing fund was distributed as follows: Byker Bridge £500, Lazarus House £500 and the remainder to be used for the furtherance of the club's history.</p> <p>Janet said that she felt very privileged to be the President in our 70th year of S.I. Newcastle upon Tyne. This special year has given us a great opportunity to raise awareness of the projects and work of Soroptimists in our region and hopefully inspire others, enabling us to increase our diversity of membership.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kath Shearer's abseil raised £380.5. • During the year the club has raised money to enable us to send some older ladies from the City on a holiday next year, something most of us take for granted. These ladies have not had a holiday for a number of years because of various circumstances and a break for them will be a major event in their lives. • Our sister Soroptimists in Thailand are working with a village in Cambodia in a 	<p>Federation President: Mrs. Marguerite Woodstock-Riley</p> <p>International Convention in Glasgow</p> <p>SIGBI Conference held in Harrogate</p> <p>'Hands Across Borders' S.I. South West Pacific Federation Project (2006 – 2008) Project Sierra (2007 – 2011)</p>	<p>PM :Tony Blair</p> <p>May 3rd.– Madeleine McCann disappeared from 5A Rua Dr Agostinho da Silva in Praia da Luz, Portugal while she was sleeping</p> <p>December 21st - at the age of 81 years, 244 days, Queen Elizabeth II became the oldest ever reigning British monarch, surpassing Queen Victoria who was aged 81 years, 243 days upon her death on January 22, 1901</p> <p>December 27th -Former Pakistani prime minister Benazir Bhutto is assassinated, along with 20 other people, at an election</p> <p>January 21st – Stock markets around the world plunge amid growing fears of a U.S.</p>


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		<p>project “Hands across Borders” providing clean water facilities, medical services and food provision We supported the project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We continued to help with the new building of the Lazarus Home for Girls on the West Bank in Bethany, Israel. • Supported the Joseph Cowen Healthcare Centre in Byker.. • President Janet attended the 18th International Convention in Glasgow and was extremely impressed with the organisation, the variety of topics covered and the wonderful opportunity to meet sister Soroptimists from around the world, truly inspiring. <p>The 70th Annual Charter Lunch was held at the International Centre for Life We welcomed Federation President Marguerite Woodstock-Riley from Barbados. The event was much enlivened by the Steel Band from the Sage.</p>		<p>recession, fueled by the 2007 subprime mortgage crisis.</p>

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<p>Ms Jill Smith 2008 - 2009</p> 	   <p>SI Newcastle upon Tyne presentation of Long Service Awards to Miss Hilda Pratt (55 years) and Mrs Anne Thom (45 years) by President Jill.</p>	<p>A number of talks were enjoyed by the club: Sue Rees from the Roy Castle Cancer Foundation, Patricia Gatherum on Project Sierra, My Job talks, Anne Giblin from Newcastle P.C.T. on provision of health & social care, Chernobyl Children's' Project, Kath Mannion on changes in the NE's Maternity Services and Isabel Quinn on end of life issues.</p> <p>Activities and events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Year Auction • Summer Lunch and Outing with SI Glasgow West in Lockerbie • Sponsored Beach Walk from Seahouses to Bamburgh raised £290 • Coffee morning in aid of Lazarus Home for Girls(held in conjunction with Chester Le Street) raised £1100 • Annual Charter Lunch was held at the Centre for Life with a talk by Community Liaison Nurse, Paddy Walsh, on the work of the Paediatric Heart Unit at the Freeman Hospital. 	<p>Federation President: Carwen Wynne Howells</p> <p>Regional Conference in Durham</p> <p>SIGBI Conference in Barbados</p> <p>Project Sierra</p>	<p>PM: Tony Blair</p> <p>April 22nd : Surgeons at London's Moorfield's Eye Hospital perform the first successful operations using bionic eyes, implanting them into two blind patients</p> <p>September 5th:Quentin Bryce becomes the first woman Governor-General of Australia.</p> <p>September 29th: Banking crises: Following the bankruptcies of Lehman Brothers and Washington Mutual, The Dow Jones Industrial Average falls 777.68 points, hitherto the largest single-day point loss in its history.</p> <p>November 19th : Claudia Castillo of Spain becomes the first person to have a successful trachea transplant using</p>

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	 <p>Presentation of a club donation of a £1000 to the Children's Heart Unit Fund at the Freeman Hospital to Paddy Walsh , Community Liason Nurse.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Year Auction and light lunch raised £436 1. Belly Dancing event raised £296 		<p>a tissue-engineered organ.</p> <p>December 10th :The Channel Island of Sark, a British Crown dependency, holds its first fully democratic elections under a new constitutional arrangement, becoming the last European territory to abolish feudalism.</p> <p>January 20th :Barack Obama is sworn in as the 44th President of the United States, becoming the first African-American to hold the office</p> <p>January 26th : The Icelandic government and banking system collapse. Prime Minister Geir Haarde immediately resigns</p>