**Highlights from 2016-17**

The Belfast Club enjoyed an amazing year with a full calendar of speakers and events under the Presidency of Yvonne Molyneaux.

**Fundraising**

There was keen fundraising and services provided for the following organisations/charities/projects:

* Flourish NI
* Alzheimer’s Society
* Makata Primary School, (Ndirande, Malawi)
* Mary’s Meals
* Women’s Aid
* Northern Ireland Hospice
* Purple Teardrop Campaign
* Soroptimist International Great Britain and Ireland (SIGBI) - Meru Garden Project (Kenya)

**Soroptimist Conferences**

Members attended the North/South (Ireland) Conference (Mullingar) in May 2016 and also the SIGBI Conference (Malta) in November 2016. There was a wealth of excellent speakers at each event.

**Membership Month – May 2016**

Belfast Club hosted a membership night with the theme ‘Singing for the Brain’. This was a very enjoyable meeting which demonstrated the use of music, singing and playing percussion instruments helps people to manage and cope with Alzheimers.

**Soroptimist Public Speaking Competition**

The Annual Public Speaking event was held in the NI Civil Service Pavilion at Stormont in November 2016. There were 22 girls who competed from local schools and the standard was very high. The winner was Ciara Cormican who represented Aquinas Diocesan Grammar School, Belfast. The event was organised by Immediate Past President, Elaine Molyneaux and supported by the Belfast Soroptimist Group.

**Friendship Links**Belfast Soroptimists have currently friendship links with Soroptimists Copenhagen and Ennis (Republic of Ireland). The club is now in the process of setting up a friendship link with Blantyre Soroptimists in Malawi.

**White Ribbon Campaign**

The White Ribbon Campaign UK is part of a global movement to put a stop to male violence against women. The 25th November was World International Day for the elimination of violence against women, known as White Ribbon Day. Belfast Soroptimists participated in Regional events to mark 16 Days of Activism between 25 November and 10 December 2016.

**Sunflower Competition**

A sunflower competition was held over the summer months to help raise clubs funds. Mrs Anne McBride (Treasurer), was the clear winner with an excellent sunflower. This was a fun summer activity which was supported by all members.

**Membership**

Ladies, if you would like to be involved in a women’s organisation which will give you the opportunity to have fun, make new friends and work on projects that help improve the lives of women and girls locally, nationally and internationally – Contact our membership officer below or email: hq@sigbi.org

**2017/18**

President: Sharon Hall

Secretary: Helen Pallin/Doreen Tennis

Treasurer: Anne McBride

Programme Action Officer: Avril Downey

IT/Website: Anne Orr

Youth Awards: Elaine Molyneaux

Membership: Yvonne Molyneaux (yvonne.molyneaux@gmail.com or Mob: 07803119004)