

SINEWS



**Incoming President Teresa Doherty presents
Past President Vi with her PP badge.**

Reflections on a Presidents Year. 2015 – 2016.

My year as President of the Bangor club was one that not only enriched my life as a Soroptimist but also provided the opportunity to develop club activities and start to make use of social media. Programme Action is really at the heart of all we do in our club and to this end we were able meet all the six key areas.

Food security and Health care- Economic empowerment



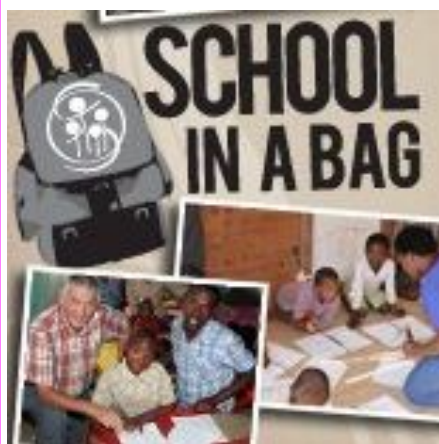
Rachel Surgenor provided us with the opportunity to hear about the Fair Trade movement and purchase products which support this business enterprise. This was followed up by some members, myself included attending the Fair Trade breakfast in the Red Berry café in Main St where the guest Speaker shared with us his experience of co-operative farming in Malawi. The system employed allows the community to grow and prosper through improved health care and education both of which are funded from the profits made by this co-operative.

Learning Opportunities

The public speaking competition provides local girls with a platform to show case their ability to speak out on a range of topical issues.

As a result we are challenged in our views and opinions of life in the 21st century.

Our support to Open Schools world wide is an example of helping to meet the learning needs of children in a complex and often alien setting.



Future Speakers and Events

2016/7

Meetings start at 7.30

Executive Committee 7.00

September

3rd President's Afternoon Tea
Ballywalter Rd Millisle

14th Business meeting

24th Regional meeting Bangor Abbey

28th Speaker Prof George Beale
St Columbanus-from Bangor to Bobbio

October

12th Business Meeting

26th Speaker AnneDunn

Ainduna Unique Jewellery

November

4th-6th SIGBI Conference Malta

9th Business Meeting

23rd Public speaking Club heat

December

14th Business Meeting

International President's Appeal

Educate to Lead - Nepal

Mulled wine and mince pies

January 2017

11th Business Meeting

25th Quiz Helen's Bay Golf Club

Silent Auction of Promises closes

STOP PRESS

75th Miscellany Booklet available
from Joan Smyth or Helen Baird

Over £300 donated for Breakfast at
the Bay. Half to Londiani appeal.

Don't forget President's Afternoon
tea 3rd September. Limited parking
so share transport.

Violence and conflict

Hazel Holmlund kept us updated in the desperation of the Mediterranean Boat people trying to escape horrific living conditions in their home countries. Sadly, even after a successful escape life would still take on other perilous experiences. For example, human trafficking, a particular criminal activity here in Ireland. Our renewed association with NDA in Bangor is giving us the opportunity to support Victims of domestic violence locally. Beth Scott of ND Woman's Aid receives a donation from the Club.



Environmental sustainability

The Kilkeel Fishermens Wives through their



unique approach to the Northern Ireland Fisheries are actively supporting this local based industry. We learned about the pressures on family life and the challenges of just making a living out of sea fishing. The women helped us to make a difference by selling locally sourced Sea food on the night but also in how to cook it up too. Best bit of Smoked haddock I ever tasted!! I hope Mc Keowns have seen an upturn in trade.

Educate to lead for global impact

The continued support for the G4G Londiani project in Kenya in partnership with the Cork club is truly remarkable. While we were all very disappointed that it did not make it to the Federation short list, I have every confidence that it will continue to grow and expand and will in the fullness of time reap many rewards.



Special highlights of the year

I enjoyed every bit of my year, and this comes with thanks to all our members for their support and encouragement during my term in office. Personally, both the SINI and SIGBI conferences were very special. It is really worthwhile supporting these events. The programme of speakers were all first class and so in tune with the ethos of Soroptimism.

I am delighted we added some new members to the club and hope that recruitment will show an increase again this year.

Celebrating Eileen Manns 60 years of service and enjoying our social / fundraising activities showed me how blessed we are to call each other 'Sisters'.

Enjoy a good long, warm summer., Vi

Recent speakers and activities

Tai-Chi with Pamela McNutt



Ruth Laird, Prison Parole Commissioner



Assisting with Guides Lorne walk



Summer Outing to Castle Espie



70th Celebrations and Events



Flower bed by Main Post Office

Invitation to Open Event

Design by Aileen Hull

Two full pages in Spectator Newspaper

'Miscellany' Booklet



*70th Anniversary Charter Lunch
Royal Ulster Yacht Club 7th May 2016*

