

SINEWS



On the last meeting before Christmas club members were entertained by members of the Percy French Players



In September members were welcomed to afternoon tea at the home of President Teresa, when the 70th Anniversary Cookery Book was launched.

Future Speakers and Events 2017

Meetings start at 7.30
Executive Committee 7.00

January

11th Business Meeting

24th Quiz Helen's Bay Golf Club

Silent Auction of Promises closes

February

4th Regional Public Speaking Final
Hillsborough Village Centre

8th Business Meeting

22nd Speaker meeting

Cyber Crime PSNI

March

8th Business meeting

22nd AGM & Water Aid

Table Quiz



TUESDAY 24TH JANUARY
2017
HELEN'S BAY GOLF CLUB
7.30 FOR 8.00

GATHER OR JOIN A
TEAM!
BOOK A TABLE FOR A
PRE-QUIZ MEAL VIA
ANNE RIDDELL

RECENT SPEAKERS

St. Columbanus - from Bangor to Bobbio

Professor George Blake gave a fascinating illustrated talk on the life and mission of St Columbanus,



explaining something about the politics of the times in Europe, and the differences between the Irish and Roman church and the difficulties which this ultimately caused for Columbanus. He

took us along the Columban trail to Bobbio and also spoke about St Gall who had travelled with Columbanus from Bangor but who remained in Bregenz after they disagreed about travelling on into Italy.

Professor Beale provided wonderful insights into the lives and philosophy of these early Irish missionaries and emphasised how well-remembered they still are in many parts of Europe.



Christmas entertainment and International Evening

President Teresa introduced members of the Percy French Society who entertained us with a number of Percy French's songs both serious and humorous. This was followed by supper at which a collection was taken for the International President's Appeal.



Ann and her team provided the supper

Public Speaking Competition

Fifteen girls from five schools competed. The winner was Tavisma

Sood from Strathearn School who will take part in the NI final in Hillsborough in February. Anna Carberry from Glenlola was second and third was Hanna Hewitt from Regent House.



The adjudicators were Walker Ewart, Judith Ming and Carol Andrews. Ann Herron and her

team arranged refreshments.

Anne Dunn

Ainduna Unique Jewellery

Anne told how she gathers glass and other materials from the shoreline to make her unique jewellery. The results were greatly admired and many purchases were made.



Programme Action Matters

Survey into Trafficking on Behalf of the Department of Justice

FGM



Anti-Slavery Day

Stalking



White Ribbon Campaign on violence against women.



Request for old phones



Donations for Storehouse and Women's Aid



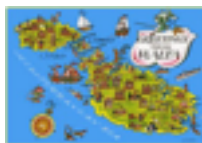
Meroe garden project.

The Malta Conference and Friendship Links

You missed a treat.

On the lovely and historic island of Malta it was a privilege to represent Bangor Club.

John and I, with the Hunters, missed the company of the Bowlers as we settled into our



apartment beside the Conference centre but we are glad all is now going well.

On Thursday evening we brought together some of the Regional Presidents from my Federation year and members of Barnstable Club giving them a copy of our 70th year book.

Other friendship links followed on Monday evening with members from Glasgow City and Cork with Lisburn, Lurgan and our mother Club Belfast. Past President Alice was able to relax after her busy year.



On both occasions we were joined by

International President Yvonne and Richard, her husband from New Zealand. She has promised to be at the North/South Conference next year so I hope many of you who have not met her will see her then. In between the 2 parties I arranged to have tea with Ayushi Kundu from SI Calcutta who was a recipient of a Federation grant and who was accompanied by her mother. I hope you will all enjoy her gift of tea.



Meeting up with sisters from all over the world is so worthwhile and hearing of their work and listening to inspirational speakers brings you back enthused and refreshed. Roll on Cardiff in 2017 - 26 to 28 October.

Joan Smyth

PS For more information about the Conference see the Soroptimist news.

We congratulate members of SI St Petersburg, our Friendship link club, who had recently celebrated its 25th anniversary



Dear Anne and sisters of SI Bangor,
Happy Holiday Season to you and our warmest wishes of health, prosperity and wonderful projects in the coming year!

In friendship,
on behalf of SI ST.Petersburg club
Marina Zakrevshaya



SI Cork

An email from Maria Kidney announced the imminent rebranding of Londiani as "Brighter Communities Worldwide", and that a new pilot taking place in 4 villages in Uganda.

Bereavement and illness

We extend our sincere sympathy to members recently bereaved and wish a speedy recovery to those suffering ill health.

The Editor is grateful for our Club Secretary's excellent minutes for additional information for this edition.



Sheelagh Simms

Joan Smyth gave a very moving tribute to Sheelagh referring to her successful career, her care for others, including over 30 years service as a member of the Bangor Hospice Support Group, and her renowned hospitality. Sheelagh introduced Joan to Soroptimism and attended many North/South and international conferences – indeed she and Nancy had been invaluable in providing support for Joan in Sydney.



Sheelagh was thoughtful and caring and a committed Soroptimist. Her 50 years of Soroptimism had been recognised at our 70th Charter lunch when she received her certificate from Immediate Past President Alice. Vi spoke about a club donation to Hospice in Sheelagh's memory. It was agreed that a donation could be made from the charity fund but that members should have the opportunity to add to this.

Former member Peggy Ferguson.

Ann Bagnall spoke about Peggy's outstanding contribution to Soroptimism, fundraising for Sightsavers, for the first lift at Stricklands

Welcome and Induction of New Members

Presidents Elect Ann and Anne welcomed members and Ann was especially pleased to welcome the new members Linda McGill and Wendy Baird.



Linda is from Honduras, is married to Paul and has four daughters. She has had a long involvement in human rights and peace movements in Honduras and the UK and is a member of Trocaire.

Wendy has had a varied career as an accountant in the private and public sectors, for the past 16 years with SERC. She loves travelling and plays a number of sports.

Getting to know you

Ann Bagnall was born in Sligo, went to school in Dublin, trained as a nurse in the RVH, is married to Bob and has 3 children and 6 grandchildren. She told of her 14 years living at Methodist College where Bob was Chaplin. During this period she studied with the Open University for a degree and then took her Masters at QUB. She worked with volunteers at Beacon House, with family groups at Bryson House and then became a Staff Tutor with the Open University's health and social care programme. Ann was instrumental in the establishment of Homestart in North Down and is strongly involved with Cruise Bereavement Care. She became a Soroptimist in 1982 where she has had opportunities to make a difference, travel and enjoy the company of "the best of sisters".

**Getting to know you**

Pauline Diplock's family moved to Bangor because of the war and she settled happily into Glenlola school. She studied domestic science at the College of Technology and after graduation worked in the East End of London for a year.



She taught in Ballynahinch on her return and then married Ken and had two daughters. Pauline described the help and support she had received in her teaching career from three Soroptimists, Diane Croskery, Joan Pepper and Marie Brownlee. Marie also introduced her to Soroptimism. Pauline was President of SI Bangor in 1984 and is delighted to have introduced Helen Killiner and Margaret Miller to the Club.

Getting to know you

Mary Cavan is the eldest of six children. She was always interested in helping those with learning difficulties and began voluntary work with a Gateway club when aged 14. She continued volunteering at Purdysburn when a student at QUB. She met Ann Bagnall and Bob in the 1990s and worked with Cruise and the Open University and it was Ann who introduced her to Soroptimism. Mary was a Probation Officer for 36 years and most of her work was in preparing pre-sentencing reports for the courts or parole board, with domestic violence and stalking cases predominating in the last 15 years. Mary retired in December 2015. She loves crossword puzzles and Sudoku, is a Scout leader and cannot ride a bike!

