

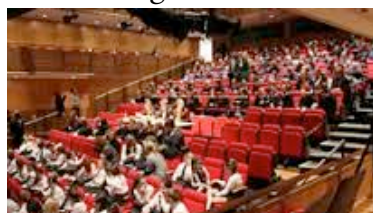
Some Social Activities

Annual Charter Dinner at Helen's Bay Golf Club.

We enjoyed some Craic, a delicious meal and were greatly entertained by Walter Ewart.



Club Outing to the theatre in Newtownabbey



On a more serious note: Domestic Violence



Ruth and Beth demonstrated very graphically, by means of a "game" the enormous difficulties faced by the victim leaving the abusive relationship - the energy-sapping visits to housing officers, social security, doctor, social workers, police, court, schools, Women's Aid itself etc etc.

And finally a message from Maria Kidney of Brighter Communities Worldwide



Dear Bangor Soroptimists!

I hope you and all the group members are doing well. It has been some time since I was in touch so thought I would say hello!

I am currently in Ethiopia working on a maternal health project – very interesting place! The project is located in the southern part, very remote so challenges are very many. I return to Londiani on Monday.

Things are going well in Kenya, although very busy. The election is on Tuesday so we hope it will go ok. Honestly this country almost comes to a standstill when it comes to elections!!

Our Girls for Girls programme is now in 52 schools, with over 2,500 girls benefiting. The link with women in the community is growing stronger, and it really is making a huge impact. We are very happy with the results to date. We also took the programme to Uganda, and the women there are delighted. It's now in 3 schools in the area where we are working. Recently we presented the programme at a conference in the UK, and got great feedback so you never know....Onwards and upwards!

Our Menstrual Hygiene Day this year we went out to many schools and sports days running activities around MHM with the students. Attached is a report for your info. A great time, with lots of new interest from parents and teachers – keeping the programme moving!

It's a busy time as our current 3 year fund with Irish Aid is coming to an end, and so reporting begins! Lots of data to be collected, analyzed and written up – the fun begins!

We are coming home to Ireland in September and will be around until 25th October as Martin's sister is getting married. We also have our Kenya Ball in the Maryborough on Saturday 14th October to which you are all more than welcome to attend! It is always a great night, and this year we are celebrating our 15th birthday so will be more exciting than ever!

Our Mountain Challenge is on the 19th August, and we hope to link up with the Irish team in Kerry by climbing part of our sustainable tourism route here.

So things are moving in the right direction.

I keep in touch regularly with the Soroptimist International news – many things happening!

Please pass on my greetings to all,

Hope all is well with everyone in Bangor,

Best wishes,
Maria