

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL CLUB OFDUNGANNON.....

Membership: Year 2017/18 Number: ...25..... Year 2016/17 Number ...24.....

We welcomed 2 new members but lost 1 through illness this year.

Date:1st March 2018.....

CLUB REPORT from March 2017 to February 2018

Please include dates of activities and brief bullet points under the following headings as appropriate)

Economic empowerment and sustainable opportunities for employment of women:

- Supporting **Charlene's Project** – building schools in Uganda/Guatemala-developing community health programmes and work opportunities for women. We donated £450, collected scarves and jewellery and sourced books and educational material all shipped to Uganda in September.
- Esther Weir Regional **Meru Garden Ambassador** told us about this project and we donated £100..
- We heard about the work of **Sarah's Covenant Homes** caring for children and young women with physical and learning disability in India and donated £450 from our charity fund.

Education – formal and non formal learning opportunities:

- Members filled their shoe boxes for **Operation Christmas Child** including educational materials.
- Fifteen girls from 3 schools participated in the local heat of the **Youth Award**.The winner Rebecca Dobbin Donaghy went on to be 3rd in the **Regional Final** in Hillsborough.
- Throughout the year members continued their input into the production of the local Talking Newspaper as they have done for many years.

Environmental sustainability:

- Speakers from SI Lurgan described their venture **Naturally Soap-NI** making chemical free products that benefit our skin and the environment.
- We collected belts and ring pulls for the **Purple Community Fund** helping trafficked women in the Phillipines.

Health and food security:

- Hannah Williamson from **Chest Heart and Stroke** outlined causes for these diseases and advised us on how to manage our personal risk factors and improve our diet.
- Mark Johnstone told us about his trip to Kilimanjaro describing the work of **Childreach** providing safe sanitation in Kenya. We donated £100 to this project.
- Our new fundraising project the **BIG BREAKFAST** raised £1075 for the **Southern Area Hospice** And raised our profile in the area.

Human Rights & Status of Women -eliminate violence against women and ensure participation in conflict resolution:

-Members participated in the **UKPAC Trafficking Survey**

-We continue our support for **Mid Ulster Womens Aid** supporting the Refuge financially and by regular donations of toileteries. Members also donated household items to furnish flats so women can be resettled into the community.

President Aleen attended a workshop run by **Women's Aid and the Ulster Orchestra** highlighting the effect of domestic violence in poetry, music and song.

-President Aleen and Patricia attended the Humn Rights Day afternoon tea held on 10th December at Oxford Island

International Goodwill & Understanding:

-Richard Moore the founder of **Children in Crossfire** told his personal story of losing his sight during the Troubles subsequently being involved in conflict resolution and establishing a charity to help children in Africa.

Outstanding Achievements - including of members in your Club:

Members play an active role in the community with many volunteering in a long list of different organisations, groups, boards etc

Recommendations to pass to other Clubs – Speakers/activities:

Chest Heart and Stroke have a variety of presentations.

Naturally Soap-NI

Fun and Friendship

- We enjoyed our **Christmas at Isobel's** –an opportunity to chat and enjoy good food.

-OUR annual **TABLE QUIZ** was well supported by the community raising £740 for our chosen charities.

-Four members attended enjoyed the **North South conference** in Londonderry.

-several members attended the SIGBI ' **Growing Our Brand** ' workshops.

-This has been a year of change for many of our members with family bereavements, personal and family illness, and other life events. Many of us have valued the support of our Soroptimist Sisters in these stressful times

Other