



Soroptimist
International
Nottingham

Review of the Year 2016

January

Keeping Children safe on line



We had a very interesting talk from Charlotte Aynsley from the NSPCC on 'Keeping children safe on-line'. Many of us are now in Grandmother mode, so it was a topic as important to us as to younger parents. We had about 15 guests at the meeting.

And on the social side -



Beth Tate's *Twelfth Night Party* was a great success and very enjoyable for all who attended. The picture shows the two hostesses in action! £200 was raised for *Cecily's Fund*.

February

Programme Action - what we do

The hours documented in the PA diary (which is not a complete record) does not include the preparation for and undertaking a number of fund raising activities and administration roles. However, the hours documented here represent an impressive record of service.

- Child Contact Centre - at least 480 hours = 68 working days
- Women's Centre Job Club - 96 hours
- Women's Centre Library - 95 hours
- Journalism Award - approx 8 hours - excluding the club meeting to review the submissions.
- Refuges - at least 12 hours to deliver the packs and gifts to 4 refuges and POW, 3 times a year plus sourcing the supplies.
- Trust meetings and administration - again not fully recorded but at least 22 hours.
- Board meeting at the Women's Centre - at least 5 hours
- Fund raising activities- again at least 50 hours

Total = 768 hours = 109 (7 hr) working days!

And from WAIS:

Hello Sue (Warriner)

I'm writing to say a big thank you for your donation of gifts for women and children and the £10 gift voucher we received from you back in December.



Each Christmas we try to give a gift or a food parcel to some of the women we work with to brighten what may not be a happy time. Your donation meant that this year, we could reach even more women.

WAIS continues to grow and our resources continue to be stretched. From March 2014 to March 2015 we supported 2,927 women, 74 teenage girls, 660 children and young people, took 10,462 calls through our helpline and found foster homes for 79 pets.

Our funding simply doesn't cover the extras that can make a big difference to a woman or child and donations like yours are vital in helping our support go that little bit further. So, we would just like to say how much we appreciate it.

March

A new direction for organizing meetings was devised.

Task Group Members for overseeing meetings were assembled. Three groups were formed, one for each 'term'. All members of the club were in one group or another.

April

The theme, **Women Building Strong Communities**, was suggested by a member and describes what the club aims to do and our speakers for the next year.

To remind us of *International Friendships*, Viv met up with friends in Karlsruhe on her holiday. On the way back through Germany, she met up with Gisela and Kathryn two of our guests from Karlsruhe to return Gisela's ring which was left at the hotel in Nottingham after the Charter Dinner.



"Robert and I had a very pleasant few hours with Gisela and Kathrin, including a tasty lunch. They were both so delighted with the time they spent in Nottingham and would like SI Nottingham to visit Karlsruhe - not for an event, but for fun and friendship."

May

Women's Cultural Exchange



Who can forget those two lovely ladies Victoria Mponda and Edith Lucky-Uweh who spoke to us about their work with the Women's Cultural Exchange in Nottingham. How caring and compassionate they are, coping with the many needs of women asylum seekers and refugees in Nottingham.

Goodbye to the Freedom Wall

It has been decided that the Freedom Wall project should be wound up (excuse the pun, I know it was a roll of wall paper! -Ed.). Over the years 781 members of the public, including at least 2 MP's and 2 Mayors of Gedling have signed the wall. It is hoped that these people are now more aware of people trafficking and Modern day slavery. Thank you to all the club members who have moved out of their comfort zone to assist with this project. Here are just a few photos taken during the project.



General Public signing up



Vernon Coker MP



Kenneth Clark MP



The Mayor of Gedling

June



Once again we had a stand at the popular Autokarna in Wollaton Park on 5th June. Fortunately the weather was fine and everything went well. The amount raised for WAIS (Women's Aid Integrated Services in Nottingham) was £245.60.

July

As winner of the Student Journalist Award at Nottingham Trent University this year Candice Fernandez created an online feature that explored the different attitudes of Muslim women living in Britain and the different ways in which they reconcile their faith with modern living.



The Club thought that it was not often there was the opportunity to hear the opinions of women minorities, and Candice was to be congratulated on bringing their voice to our attention.

Candice's article was published on the student journalism news site www.cbjspotlight.co.uk, which can be accessed online.

Out of Africa!

Two pictures on the next page of Carol's visit to Kitwe School in Zambia to see the work of Cecily's fund first hand. The notice on the door says "**Excellence knows no gender**"



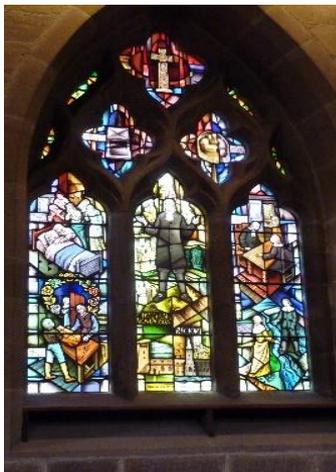
August

Just the month for a Garden party. SI Nottingham had a wonderful one at a member's beautiful garden and raised over £550 for the **Meru Garden Project**.



September

Perdita and myself attended an interesting **Region 'Away Day'** meeting at the village of Eyam in Derbyshire. We had time to wander round at lunchtime, to get a feel for the place. After lunch we had a moving talk by Joan Plant, a descendant of the original survivors. Of



interest to the scientific among us is that genetic investigations around a 'survival' gene, which may have implications for the treatment of Ebola and Aids. Interestingly, the village raised £25,000 to send a nurse over to Sierra Leone during the Ebola outbreak. This stained glass window was donated to the Church to celebrate the story.



SI Freetown in Sierra Leone, one of SI Nottingham's Link Clubs, had a visit from Margaret Emsley recently. Amongst other projects highlighted, these students, orphaned by Ebola, are benefitting from the money we have sent over. Looks as if Soroptimists are being greeted with a song!

October

The Club meeting on 3rd October gave us an opportunity to reflect on discussions during the previous weeks, and to agree our priorities for 2016-17 under three headings - fundraising, lobbying, service. Thank you to all who had contributed to the discussion. For the benefit of those who were not at the meeting, a summary is attached to this bulletin.



A fund raising target for the Meru Women's Garden Project was decided upon. Other projects that the club will support either by fund raising or service were also decided.

November

A group of members went to the SIGBI International Conference in Malta at the beginning of November.



As usual, the International Evening was a great success. Many thanks to our club members Resil and Lina who came in traditional dresses, bringing with them Sierra Leone snacks. We were joined by Natalie and Irene on their 'Post Malta' tour. You certainly brightened up the evening. £66.02 was raised for the SI presidents fund for Nepal.



Resil, Doreen Deigh, PA Officer for Freetown,
Natalie Cole President of Freetown, Lina

December

A quiet month, apart from the traditional club Christmas meal