

Club Newsletter

July 2020



Nottingham Soroptimist Trust

providing training, education and financial hardship grants
for women and girls in Nottinghamshire

registered charity number 1130691

The Soroptimist Trust

SI Nottingham was chartered in 1936 and as we will be celebrating our 85th Anniversary next year I have been thinking about the difference that has been made over those years by our Club members, not only in our own City but further afield and internationally. We have undertaken many successful projects, some, especially the Millennium Millions Appeal, involving partnerships with other organisations.

The original members of SI Nottingham hit the ground running and immediately started thinking of how they could help other local women; things were very different in the mid 1930's – single or widowed women were often unable to obtain accommodation and the members wanted to set up a housing project. It did seem that the onset of war could mean the scheme would have to be postponed, but the President was determined to carry on and a suitable house was found which was rented, adapted, furnished and sub-let as bedsits. A housing committee was formed to ensure the well-being of their tenants in this and subsequent houses.

During the war the club set up a tea bar at the Midland railway station. This was very successful and provided funds for the club to enable them to eventually purchase a property.



Opening of Tea Bar for armed forces passing through

At this point the Housing Association obtained a mortgage and had to become a separate entity to SI Nottingham. After selling and buying various properties, fast forward to 2008 when there was one property remaining, situated on Newcastle Drive, The Park, Nottingham. This beautiful house had 6 self-contained apartments which were now being let through an agency, mainly to professionals. The Housing Association committee thought that the original objectives were no longer applicable and decided to put the property up for sale.

A charitable trust was formed, and the proceeds of the sale were invested through a reputable investment company. The objects of the Trust are that income from the investment is used to provide training, education and financial hardship grants for women and girls in Nottinghamshire. This venture has been a huge learning curve and the Trustees are constantly reviewing and amending procedures. A variety of women have been helped over the first 10 years - the Trustees are very proud that one of the first grants was given to Isata Kanneh-Mason and our relationship with the family continues today with her sisters now following in her footsteps.

I am sure that those first members all those years ago would be proud to see that their vision in providing housing and being brave enough to purchase property has resulted in hundreds of women today being helped to fulfil their potential and have a better life.

I wanted to highlight this project as it has run right through the 85 years of SI Nottingham's service and Programme Action.

Kate Swinscoe
Secretary Nottingham Soroptimist Trust

Margaret's Moment.

Margaret has put together the programme for the Autumn Term.

<i>Sunday 9th August at 1330</i>	Socially distanced picnic, Rushcliffe Country Park – see below
Mon 7th Sept	'Getting to Know You': Daphne Nicholl Club business and Programme Action. Chair: Irene Brown
Mon 21st Sept	Talk from The Region President Jasmit Phull Club Business: Chair Mary Drake
Monday 5th Oct	Club business, programme action. Journalism Award TBA Chair: Margaret Oldroyd
Mon 19th Oct	Winning Friends and Influencing People: teams at work and at play, Clare Copping; Club Business Chair: Perdita Harvey
<i>Afternoons Fri 30th & Sat 31st Oct</i>	<i>Virtual SIGBI Federation Conference</i>
Mon 2nd Nov	Programme Action Evening (including moving on packs?) Chairs : Lisa Barrett and Lynda Clifford
<i>Sat 14th Nov</i>	<i>Region Meeting, via Zoom</i> <i>Speaker: Federation President Johanna Raffan</i>
Mon 16 th Nov	International Evening: Speaker Sam Ellis from the Rosie May Foundation. Chair Sue Warriner

Mon 7 th Dec	Speaker: Janice Holmes on her project with bras in The Gambia; Club Business and programme action. Chair: Lina Morgan
Mon 21 st Dec	Christmas Celebration Meeting: food, chat and club business TBA

Region from Perdita - Three reports are attached with email.

Federation Project

2019 - 2020 has seen the launch of Empowering Girls in Nepal. Jacqui Purnell is our regional ambassador and link to the project. I urge you all to consider participating in the Big Story by writing a memoir and getting sponsorship for Empowering Girls in Nepal. Elaine McDonald is writing a piece, and every Soroptimist can contribute by sponsoring her online. You should by now have received full details how to do this by email from your club Programme Action Officer or Secretary. The deadline for submissions to the Big Story has been extended until 31 July 2020.

Social

Details for the social at Ruddington Park provided by Ann

August picnic in the park (weather permitting)

Sunday 9th August from 1.30pm



Our August event is a socially distanced picnic in Rushcliffe Country Park - NG11 6JS. It is off the A60 (signposted towards Loughborough) just past Ruddington and well signposted from the A60.

The park has a visitor's car park and street parking. Once you have passed the entrance gate and parking sign, you are in a pay-and-display area. The charge is £1 per day, or 3 hours free with blue badge.

Bring your own picnic, but there is a catering trailer for hot drinks and snacks and usually an ice-cream van. Partners and friends welcome.

There are a number of benches and picnic tables, but in case it is very busy, can you bring picnic chairs if you have them.

If you are able to bring extra chairs, or if you don't have a chair but will need one, please let Ann know.

And Finally -

If I don't see you at the picnic on Sunday, have a great holiday month.

I can't leave Newsletter without a contribution.



A Comma butterfly in our garden early in the summer

Keep Safe

Audrey