

Club Newsletter

May 2020



STOP PRESS – BREAKING NEWS

We have heard today the exciting news that WeRhere have been awarded the Queen's Award For Voluntary Services.

Never was an award more richly deserved- Congratulations to Hilary Brown and all her co-workers.

From the Editor

This newsletter will, as you read it, is mainly about people, and also a request for a flower display. Read to the end for more!

Programme Action Update 2020

Programme Action in lockdown

Many of our existing projects are on hold because the organisations that we support have temporarily closed their doors. Once easing begins, we can reassess how we can move forward. In the meantime, we can still roll our sleeves up and undertake action to support women and girls.

Women's Centre

Although the Centre has had to close its doors, it has started a Crisis Fund to help vulnerable service users. They are using a Local Giving site. If you would like to make a contribution you can do so by visiting the Women's Centre website where you can click a button to donate.

Advocacy

If you come across any suitable actions that can be taken e.g. relevant petitions or interesting webinars, please circulate. When signing any petitions, why not sign as 'Jane Doe, Soroptimist'?

ActionAid

We have all agreed that we will begin sponsoring a girl (maybe more than one if we are successful with fund raising) in, hopefully Kenya. This will mean a regular monthly contribution of just over £19. As well as providing the opportunity for the girl to extend her education, it will also familiarise her and her friends and family with the concept of Soroptimism, especially as a new African Federation is borne.

Once we return to club meetings, we can utilise the money we pay for teas and coffee towards this project. In the meantime, we can devote any profits from our **ebay** venture to this project (see below)

Fund raising

We would like you to sort out any good quality clothes, any memorabilia, and household goods etc. in fact anything not perishable that we can sell on **eBay**. This will, hopefully, bring funds into the club from the general public. If you think you may have a dress, a teapot, a jigsaw etc. which you no longer need, please take a few photos and send them to Lynda via email, along with a few lines of description. Lynda will then post it on eBay. If you cannot parcel it up after sale and take to the post office please contact Lisa or Lynda and we can arrange that. The buyer pays the postage so that will be refunded to you.

Any profits can initially be applied to the Action Aid and the £240 we need to sponsor a toilet block under the Toilet Twinning project.

Lisa and Lynda'

Let's Zoom!

It is, of course, unfortunate that we cannot meet at the present time, even 'socially distanced'. However, Soroptimists are adaptable, and we have taken to meeting each other on screen, or via the phone. The trial full meeting went well. There has since been a Programme Action Committee meeting on Zoom, and a group just meeting for a chat.



News from Link Clubs

Lina has had a flurry of emails from link clubs in response to her query about how the clubs were doing.

From Kathrin in Karlsruhe:

“Thank you so much for your kind message!

Just yesterday we had a telephone conference with about two thirds of our members participating. Siegrun, our president, called everyone's name in alphabetical order and everyone got "her moment" to tell us how she is doing. Looks like everyone is okay. Many of us belong to risk groups, usually because of old age, and have to live in self-isolation. But they all seem to be well organized. No one caught the virus and no one mentioned being in urgent need for help, and now the secretary (yours truly) is to write a little protocol together with some additional infos, messages and so on. Your e-mail arrived literally minutes after the end of our talk. Otherwise I could have forwarded your greetings on the phone. Now I have forwarded your e-mail (minus the personal things for me), hope that is all right with you.

Germany is planning to lift a few restrictions soon. However, the more they lift, the more dangerous the situation will be for us "risk groups". I'll be among the last to leave self-isolation. Let's see! I hope that you and everyone in Nottingham Club is and stays well! Please pass my, and Karlsruhe's, best regards to all your fellow members.

All our best wishes! Yours, Kathrin”

From Rosebella (Eldoret, Kenya)

“Good morning Lina.

Receive greetings from SI Eldoret of Eldoret sisters. We are doing well during this tough time of the pandemic.

In Kenya, things are tough due to the government directives concerning the spread of the virus, but at least, it has helped in that the spread has been slowed down, the cases are not as many and we are trusting God that it doesn't increase.

I understand the situation there at Nottingham is critical. But we are all praying To God to deliver the world from this situation.

Eldoret club we had our last monthly meeting in February, since then we only communicate through messages, email and Whatsapp .

Stay safe our dear sisters.

Pass our greetings to all Nottingham sisters

Yours in sisterhood Rosebella”

From Corrie in Twenty: (Netherlands)

“Hello Lina and all the sisters of club Nottingham,

How good it is to hear from you! I hope all are still healthy. Of our club there was one who has

**Women inspiring action,
transforming lives**

been very ill of Corona, but happily slowly getting better. The others are well, but have difficulties with work. A teacher working from home, a physio therapist no work no income and so on. Our last meeting was in March, 13th. It is a pity we do not have activities now. We have contact on WhatsApp or mail, most in the groups App. For me it is very quiet, being at home alone. I wanted to go to the birthday of my son in Sweden, but I could not, that was very sad.

Because of the beautiful weather we can sit in our gardens and are enjoying spring.

Hoping that all of you stay healthy,

We wish you all the best.

Love from Corry”

From Adeline in Freetown (Sierra Leone)

“Good morning Lina, sorry for the late reply, I was having problems with my phone sim card. Glad to hear from you. We are thinking of you greatly as our friendship link. May God continue to see us through this COVID19 pandemic. Hope you are all doing great and safe. Please extend our greetings to SI Nottingham and hoping to see each other in safety. We care about you all. I should have handed over officially by the end of April but because of this pandemic we've suspended all activities and correspondence is done online. The new President has started her duty and official handing over will be done later. She is Margaret Bernard Jones. Her phone number is 076612031. You can call her. I'll also forward your email to her. Best wishes all and families. Thanks. Adeline.”

Lina

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Membership and Social

Social

Some kind of social event will be organized for the summer, depending on COvid19 regulations

Membership

Irene received an email of ‘Country musings’ from Marilyn, I thought would like to read.

Greetings all

I hope that everyone is keeping well & taking the opportunity to top up on Vit.D when the sun shines. I have certainly enjoyed the few glorious days that we have had without the bitterly cold wind. I have been able to actually sit and enjoy the garden for short periods in between the hours I have spent on my knees clearing away the very healthy weeds!

Sadly, the swallows have not returned to their nests this year. This is only the second time in 24 years that they have not arrived. I am accustomed to having two broods and one year had three. My brother the other side of Lincoln has only one pair whereas he usually has lots having barns

and stables which they love. They are also of better quality than my three pony stables. I shall miss their 'twittering' and company. Even the robins are scarce.

I have not had company weeding yet, only a friendly black bird which is becoming more adventurous each time I go out into the garden. It is a very good year for sparrows they are everywhere, and they have no regard for social spacing and as yet have no fear of humans!

A cold windy day today and rain last night means I do not have to water and I can give my knees a rest as they were giving me the beginnings of what is known in the physiotherapy trade as 'housemaid's knee'. I still have two hedge lengths to tidy up and clear after all the daffodils and snowdrops. So I am not yet quite in control of my garden despite the extra hours I have spent within it.

Here ends my news from the country.

Keep well everyone, *Marilyn*

Keep Safe

Audrey