



Speaker Helen MacKinnon and past president of SI Perth Jean Campbell

SI Perth members were delighted to attend the first meeting after the summer break and to hear the fascinating story of Helen MacKinnon's journey as a composer of music as well as welcoming a potential new member.

SIGBI FEDERATION CONFERENCE IN CARDIFF

at the end of October—three Perth members attended the conference and we were delighted when Avril Duncan was asked to report on her Seema's Project along with Norma McGovern of SI Dundee. The project has been able to rescue and re-home forty children who are the offspring of trafficked sex workers and who were living in cramped conditions in the red-light district of the Indian city of Pune. Seema Waghmode and her husband have worked for 25 years to improve the lives of trafficked sex workers, and the home for these children has been built on their farm. A further building is currently under construction.

WOMEN OF THE WORLD FESTIVAL—27th to 29th October—Perth Soroptimists participated in the first festival to be held in Perth by manning an awareness stall.

SI Perth were happy to support a Quiz Night held in October by Rotary Club of Perth Kinnoull in The Royal George Hotel to raise funds for Seema—the sum of £680 was raised.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to say a huge thanks to SI Perth for committing to and raising £2000 for Women's Aid as our charity for the year which will be match funded. My thanks to all the inspirational speakers who have contributed so much to our programme allowing us to be inclusive of non members to the club and further raising our profile.



Jean Campbell, Mary Wallace, Jean Black, speaker Lynsey Mackay and President Ann Gourlay

Noting Anti Slavery Day on 18th October, members heard from Lynsey Mackay about the horror of "grooming" in the human trafficking context and the work of Just Enough Scotland, an organisation which works with school children to raise awareness about human trafficking.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED INTO THE PERTH CLUB



Hazel Duke (centre) is welcomed as a member of Soroptimist International Perth by club president Ann Gourlay on the right and was introduced by Sybil Galbraith on the left.



Linda McKerchar received her new member's certificate and badge at the October club meeting.

FUND RAISING



Shula and Josephine (the grand-daughter of Avril Duncan) both aged 10 show off some of the many children's fashions available from M & Co.

Fashion Shows have been hosted by M & Co at both Blairgowrie and Perth Stores with proceeds going to Women's Aid. Over £700 was raised at the Blairgowrie event and £380 at Perth. Member Alison Findlay also raised £253 for Mary's Meals when she and her family walked across the new Queensferry Crossing bridge.



Vice President Ann Bellingham raising our profile by manning a fund raising/awareness stall at a coffee morning in Blairgowrie Town Hall.

Members continue to knit squares and hats which go to the BalCraig Foundation for distribution amongst their African Projects.

"Women inspiring action—transforming lives"



REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING—November 2017



Ann Gourlay SI Perth President (left) introduced our speaker Mary McLuskey (centre) who explained the Green Standard Award she has developed enabling organisations evidence their sustainable practices. Regional President Prue Watson of SI Dundee (right) gave the vote of thanks.



Immediate Past President of Scotland North Region, Jean Campbell who is a member of SI Perth receives her past president's badge from Regional President Prue Watson having completed a two year term of office.

Christmas meal at The Royal George Hotel



Some of our very active Octogenarians who attended the Christmas meal: Terri Reilly on the left, Jaye Telfer above and Nancy Scott and Diana Robertson on the right.



Christmas meals are normally happy and fun evenings but this photograph with Alison Findlay and Avril Duncan looks more like a serious Club Executive Meeting! Perhaps the concentration was due to the "Snowman Drive" (aka Beetle Drive) prior to us having a good sing song of Christmas Carols!!

RECLAIM THE NIGHT—Dec 2017

Women across Perth & Kinross join together as part of a global 16 days of activism to end Violence against Women. 6 members from SI Perth joined the "Reclaim the Night" march with Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre Perth & Kinross one of the leading organisations taking part. Provost Denis Melloy of Perth & Kinross Council supported the event by providing pre-walk teas and coffees. SI Perth continue to lobby and actively work in the area of domestic abuse under our umbrella of Programme Action with partnerships such as Women's Aid, Barnardo's, Victim Support, PKAVS & Police Scotland as well as others.



Ann Bellingham, Mary Wallace, Ann Gourlay, speaker Liz Wilson, Sybil Galbraith, Alison Findlay and Lesley Robinson

PLAYLIST FOR LIFE

President Ann Gourlay is pictured, alongside other Soroptimists, handing over a cheque to Liz Wilson, a volunteer with Playlist for Life—Music for Dementia. Liz explained that the writer & broadcaster Sally Magnusson had founded Playlist for Life having witnessed the effect of music on her late mother's dementia and highlighted the power of music and the many benefits to both those living with dementia and those who care for them.



Photograph shows retired Soroptimist nurses and guests



Speakers with some Perth Soroptimists

Members from Dundee and Crieff joined us to hear a most inspiring talk from The Nursing Memorial Appeal entitled "Time to Thank Them" At least 1500 nurses died in service during both World Wars. This does not take account of the numbers between the days of Florence Nightingale and 1914. Yet their sacrifice has never been properly memorialised. Perhaps there was never a convenient time to thank them during the chaos of war. So the Nursing Memorial Appeal is going to put that right at the National Memorial Arboretum.

"TIME TO THANK THEM"

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 27th March—Coffee at Black Watch Museum
- 31st March—Alyth Coffee Morning
- 14th April—Joint Conference, Stirling Court, Stirling University
- 24th April—Coffee at Black Watch Museum
- 17th June Club AGM

There are nearly 80,000 Soroptimists worldwide, the majority of whom belong to their local Club where they can make friends with like-minded women, have fun and work on projects that help improve the lives of women and girls locally, nationally and internationally. Soroptimist International Great Britain and Ireland (SIGBI) also offers Associate Membership, for busy women who believe in what we do but do not have the time to get involved in club activities. Soroptimist International (SI) and SIGBI both have consultative status at the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) at the United Nations (UN) which gives us a voice on important discussion papers, and allows us to attend the Commission on the Status of Women in New York each March, and contribute to the "Agreed Conclusions". This status would not be possible without the fantastic work being done by our members.