



Our President

Lesley Robinson's Message

I would like to say a huge thank you to the club members for raising just over £4500 this year, £3000 of which will go to Playlist for Life which is fantastic, and the rest will be spread amongst a number of other projects that we support or who have applied to us for funding over the year.

Some of the money raised for Playlist for Life will go to cover the cost of setting up Help Points, all over the country, for friends and family of those with dementia to be able to come and find out how to set up a playlist for their loved ones to help them use the music of a person's life to keep them connected with themselves and their loved ones. A Help Point is planned to open at the A. K. Bell Library in Perth in May 2019 where some of our members will be volunteering.

As Soroptimist International Perth move towards their 85th Annual General Meeting on 16th April we find ourselves in the same situation as many of our sister clubs in that Lesley Robinson may well be our last club President. Due to the lack of available club members we find that we have neither a President Elect nor Vice President going forward into the new year and after much soul searching at all member meetings the club have decided to move forward with a different structure of office bearers. We are fortunate this year to have members who are willing to step up to the mark either individually or in a role sharing position and we all look forward to the future with positivity.



October 2018

Soroptimist International members from Crieff (Janice Wilson & Katie Lang) and Perth (Jean Campbell) clubs were delighted to promote all the exciting, challenging work making a difference for women & girls, i.e. Soroptimists educating, empowering and enabling women & girls to achieve their full potential, at the second Women of the World Festival held in Perth over the weekend. The excellent festival was intergenerational, giving a flavour of the local, national and international outlook, opening many people's eyes to the gender agenda.

Soroptimist members Ann Bellingham (Perth) and Christine Perry (Crieff) ably assisted by other SI Perth members, Lesley Robinson, Anne Gray, Alison Findlay, Pamela Ritchie and Prue Watson (Dundee) were delighted to let everyone attending the Women of the World (WOW) 2018 Festival in Perth hear about Soroptimist International and the work done locally, nationally & internationally. The second WOW Festival in Scotland had creative workshops, music, dance, talks on gender equality and inspirational women from history. The whole festival was fabulous, thought-provoking, energizing and instructive.



Perth members at their December Christmas party meeting.



Many congratulations to an ex SI Perth Member Norma McGovern for being voted Dundee Citizen of the year 2019

Jean Campbell, Pat Carruthers and Mary Wallace travelled to Aberdeen on the 9th March to attend the Scotland North Regional Council Meeting, but more importantly to celebrate with Aberdeen Members the 90th Anniversary of their club.

SMALLS FOR ALL—during March and April members are making a big effort to collect knickers and lightly used bras which will go to Africa.



"THURSDAYS IN BLACK"

Perth members Lesley Robinson and Linda McKerchar seen second and third on the right join other like minded organisations to support "Thursdays in Black" a campaign which is not confined only to countries at war, but recognizes that violence takes many forms, including domestic violence, sexual assault, rape, incest, murder, female infanticide, genital mutilation & discrimination and sex trafficking amongst other violations against women.

'Members of Soroptimist International all over the world highlight the 16 days of Activism against Gender-based Violence Campaign which spans from the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 25 November until Human Rights Day on 10 December; an annual campaign against gender-based violence. This is a time to galvanize action to end violence against women and girls around the world, when a whole lot of people come together and speak out on one topic: ending violence against women and girls. In the streets, in schools, offices, villages and cities, every year, people around the world raise awareness and take action during the 16 Days of Activism including the Perth & Kinross Violence Against Women's Partnership's programme of events. This year, the 16 Days comes on the heels of #MeToo and other global movements and grassroots campaigns that have made it clear that women, everywhere, have had enough.'



The photographs shows some Soroptimists in Scotland, including members of the Perth club, wearing orange to support the UNITE Campaign's 2018 global advocacy theme: Orange the World: #HearMeToo.'

The main recipient of our Fund Raising this past year will be "Playlist for Life" and this year we held a Raffle which raised £500. Our Good Deed Fund continues to receive the proceeds of second hand book sales and quarterly quizzes along with other fund raising efforts.



A hamper collated by club member Alison Harrison was the main prize in our Raffle and was won by Alison Findlay.

STARTER PACKS



Starter Packs continue to be one of the main local charities that we support and a steady stream of items are collected by both members and associated helpers. Member Alison Findlay leads this effort. Starter Packs in Perth were delighted to receive curtains, bedding, crockery and cutlery from the Thrifty One Shop, Alyth via Perth Soroptimist Jean Campbell (seen on left of photograph with two Starter Pack Volunteers). Good quality household items which have not been sold in Thrifty One are warmly welcomed by Starter Packs who help the homeless and people in need throughout Perthshire. It is an independent charity that relies on the support of individuals, local churches and organisations including CATH, to provide a basic selection of small household items to help improve the living conditions of newly rehoused individuals and families in Perthshire, who are in difficult social and economic circumstances.

SPEAKERS

Our speakers over the past few months have been varied and interesting and have included the husband of one of our members, Alastair Walker who is a Blue Badge Tourist Guide. Alastair gave us an insight into his working life. We were also taken on a verbal tour of the 4.5 miles of waterway, known locally as the Perth Lade. James Lockhead introduced us to the myths surrounding its origins, its use as a water supply and links to local industries along with current developments to create a nature walk through the city. In March Marjorie Clark enlightened us on all aspects of the Perth & Kinross Foodbank which is affiliated to the Trussell Trust.

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ROCK CHOIR

An evening of entertainment and fund raising was organized by the club. The photograph shows the organizing committee: Christine, Ann, Alison, Lesley, Lesley and Ann along with some of the choir. An extremely enjoyable evening was had by all.

GDPR

Perth club along with the rest of the country conform to rule!

HONORARY MEMBER NANCY SCOTT BECOMES A NONAGENARIAN

On the 2nd March members gathered at Huntingtower Hotel for afternoon tea to celebrate the "Big" birthday of our Honorary member Nancy Scott who was also presented with a certificate confirming 45 years as a member of Soroptimist International Perth. She was also presented with a certificate of appreciation from Past International President, Ann Garvie a member of Glasgow City Club.



Lesley Robinson & Nancy Scott



Anne Gray and Laura Baird



Sybil Galbraith, Alison Findlay, Linda Mckerchar, Pat Carruthers & Terri Reilly



The Birthday Girl



Avril Duncan & Jean Campbell



Sarah Cuthbert, Mary Wallace & Margaret Shand



Lilian Murchison, Alison Harrison, Sybil Galbraith and Alison Findlay



Vivian Mann on the left who also received a long service certificate for 35 years membership of Soroptimist International Perth.



Elizabeth Dalgetty, Ann Bellingham and Lesley Chisholm

Photograph on left: Vivian Mann, Kathleen Angus, Catherine Carruthers and Avril Duncan.



Sue Gardener, Jaye Telfer, Evelyn Robertson, Diana Robertson & Christine Macfarlane

All photographs courtesy of Margaret Smith

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. CONTACT SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL PERTH at siperth@outlook.com