



It has been over a year since I have been able to find the time to pull together in a newsletter all the things that we Perth Soroptimists have been up to so this is really a catch up version which will cover as many things as I can remember. As President Jean says below 2020 has been a year like no other but we are just about at the end of it and with a Covid 19 vaccination now available lets hope that we can all look forward to returning to some sort of form of normality in 2021



President SI Perth, Jean M Black

A message from President Jean

Dear Fellow Soroptimists

We are fast approaching the end of what has been a very different and difficult year. I am pleased that none of our members fell foul to Covid 19. Zoom meetings have been successful, in fact almost 100% attendance at most meetings and it has been a privilege to welcome guests to these meetings also. I thank you all for your commitment and dedication. We may be small in numbers, but we have achieved lots from tree planting, knitting for the needy, sensory books for visually impaired children and supporting Perth & Kinross RASAC Youth Ambassadors to name but a few. It was brought to our attention that the local Salvation Army was in need of funds to make up food parcels for the underprivileged. A raffle was hurriedly organised and I am happy to inform you a cheque for approximately £650 will be handed over. Thank you all for your generosity.

I wish you and yours a very Happy Christmas and good health and happiness in the New Year. Keep safe and cosy.

Jean



Marjory Smart, S.I. Aberdeen who was the Scottish Ambassador for the project.

Having intimated in October 2019 that we were about to embark on working with Chora Chori in Nepal to raise monies to help the "Empowerment of girls in Nepal" it is only in the last few weeks that we have been informed that the plug has been pulled on this appeal. All clubs in SIGBI await details on what is to happen to monies already sent. Our thoughts are with Marjory who has put so much work into this project.



Perth member Gameeada Barnard with Catherine Wallace from Harbour Counselling



Catherine, Lilian Murchison, Jean Black & Alison Findlay

At the end of 2019 members learned from Catherine Wallace all about the aims and objectives of **HARBOUR COUNSELLING** which is a charity offering free counselling to the people of Perth and surrounding areas. The work of the charity is underpinned by its Christian ethos, and the name 'Harbour' was chosen to represent a safe refuge.



NO...our 91 year old Honorary member Nancy Scott is not going backwards with her birthdays. Lilian, Nancy & Jean were marking that SI Perth was 85 years old.

NSPCC.....Linda Hamilton, East of Scotland fundraiser for NSPCC spoke to us about the National Societies work which aims to protect children from abuse and neglect and run a Childline helpline in Scotland.

We were also joined that evening by Allie MacLeod, an 18 year old Girl Guide Leader from Perth who the club had financially supported to allow her to go to Lesotho and help guiding in the area. When there, they, amongst other things set up a project making sanitary towels for girls from Lesotho.



Alison Harrison, Allie, Linda & Jean Black

In December 2019 there would have been no doubts in the minds of any of the members that they would be celebrating Christmas 2020 in the same manner—not so. Covid 19 took over!



Alison Harrison, Sybil Galbraith, Maureen, Jean Black & Avril Duncan

At the Christmas gathering of members in The Royal George Hotel, Perth in December 2019 Maureen Rutherford provided the music and was ably accompanied by two of her music pupils. Members joined in singing a variety of carols.



£600 was raised as a result of a Christmas raffle with the prize being a fantastic hamper of goodies. It was won by a local gentleman.

Unfortunately there is to be no repeat of this in December 2020 with the current restrictions that we all have to adhere to but as you will have read in President Jean's letter we did manage to pull together a raffle where the financial proceeds will go to the local Salvation Army to help them fill parcels with food for deserving people.



Collection of toiletries that have been collected by members for local Women's Aid



Sybil Galbraith being presented with her 25years membership certificate by President Jean. Unfortunately we have lost Sybil to S.I. Crieff club as she has moved to stay in Crieff.

PROGRAMME ACTION WORK






Sexual Violence

Whether or not you are in a relationship, whether or not you know the person... these are some examples of sexual violence:

- Catcalling
- Calling you sexual names
- Using offensive language towards LGBTIQ young people
- Commenting on your physical appearance in a sexual manner
- Making you look at sexual images you don't want to
- Pressuring you to send nude photos of yourself
- Someone sharing nude/sexual photos of you
- Someone inappropriately touching you
- Being pressured, forced or groomed into sexual activity with a person or online
- Someone giving you something in exchange for sexual acts

Our website details are: www.rasacpk.org.uk

Our email address is: support@rasacpk.org.uk

The Rape Crisis Scotland Helpline: 0800 016 0606 is available from 9pm to midnight every evening.



Supplies of household goods collected and delivered to STARTER PACKS in Perth. S.I. Perth are indebted to Danscot Ltd for acting as a collection point and to Alison Findlay for managing this project.

Programme action work continues to be at the forefront of S.I. Perth and the photographs above show our involvement with RASAC. 8000 Bookmarks have been sponsored and produced and will be distributed by RASAC Youth Ambassadors to local schools and youth organisations when current Covid restrictions permit. The club during this year has donated to many worthy causes from funds raised during the year 2019/20 but during

2020 it has been impossible to embark on any fund raising projects other than collecting coins in smartie tubes and the Christmas raffle which has been done virtually by asking members to sell virtual raffle tickets. The club supports the care, protection and education of Lucy, a Kenyan orphan who lives in the Soila Girls Maasai Centre and we get lovely newsy letters from Lucy.

November 2019 saw Perth club being the host to the Regional Council meeting where members wore orange to support the 16 days of activism and in particular "The Elimination of Violence against Women"



Outside The Royal George Hotel, Perth



Lilian Murchison, SI Perth



Collecting Bras & Pants for "Smalls for All"

Members from Aberdeen, Inverness, Easter Ross, Dundee, Crieff & Perth were joined by Tina Chapman, President of Scotland South Region and Shelagh Lee from SI West Lothian who were also representatives of "Smalls for All". Members from all clubs in the region not only pulled out all stops to create the "orange" look but were also very generous with their bras & pants for Small's for All



A mixture of SI Perth and SI Crieff members

One of our most enjoyable fund raisers is the local ROCK CHOIR who performed for us literally days before we were all forced into a national lockdown in March. This gathering turned out to be the last face to face meeting that we have had with our members. The Annual General Meeting due to be held in April was postponed until the 8th September. The club executive started having Zoom meetings from the beginning of June but it was August before we managed to organise



SI Perth members Christine & Gameeda



Vivian, Pat & Lilian members of SI Perth



Organisers, Alison & Jean

a member's Zoom meeting which was classed as an informal trial run with the theme "show & tell" where members all joined in to tell each other what they had been doing during the summer months while they were in a lockdown. Everything from knitting trauma teddies, looking after fellow members to cleaning cupboards and looking after sheep came up.



Silver Birch planted in South Inch, Perth



Perth club are working with all clubs in SIGBI to commemorate the Centenary of Soroptimist International in 2021 by planting trees throughout the UK. Perth have started by planting a Silver Birch in the South Inch with hopefully more to come. The above screen shot was taken at the recent Regional Council meeting held via Zoom. If you look closely there are five SI Perth members in the shot. We have now held two Region meetings via Zoom and four of us attended the virtual Federation Conference which should have seen us all in Belfast this year. There were a few technical hiccups at the beginning of the Conference but they were ironed out reasonably quickly.

The speakers and the content were acceptable but it was just a bit too long to sit and look at a screen. There is no doubt that part of going to a conference is to meet friends, this loss was felt so everything is crossed that things will return to normal in Llandudno, North Wales in 2021.

Mary Wallace, Jean Black and Avril Duncan joined a virtual meeting organised by one of our Friendship links, SI Pune Metro East, India on 21st September entitled "Shaping Peace Together". This was a thoroughly enjoyable experience where we were all meditating online — the very best so far and we were also



Collection of items for Blythswood Christmas Boxes



Only a sample of the many magnificent Sensory Books produced

acknowledging International Peace Day. Perth club decided that as Zoom meetings were so easy that we would go back to two meetings a month. In October a former member Ann Gourlay spoke to us about being an Independent Celebrant and later in the month we had a very interesting talk from Dorothea Christiana from UNA-UK and then in November we were addressed by joint Regional Presidents, Katie Lang & Pat Stewart. Members Avril Duncan, Alison Findlay and Alison Harrison have all been excelling themselves producing a multitude of amazing sewn articles from Scrub Bags for the NHS, "Tumbling Quilts" and a variety of Sensory Books for visually impaired children which has made us all feel that we should have paid more attention in our Home Economics classes. The knitters like myself have just kept going feeding Alison Findlay with squares and strips to sew into knee blankets which have now been delivered to our local hospital.



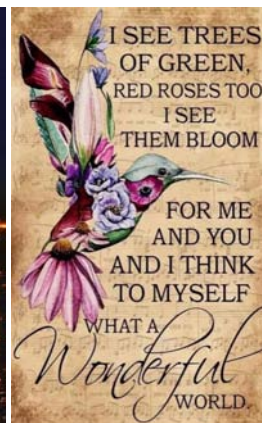
Scrub bags for NHS by Alison Harrison

We were fortunate again this November that Perth & Kinross Council agreed to light up the Perth Bridge over the river Tay to help highlight the need to Eliminate Violence against Women. The picture was taken by Deborah Wallace, my daughter in law.

NEWS OF MEMBERS our membership is down to 19 and we have a few members who were not able to join us on Zoom - Nancy Scott & Jaye Telfer managed one meeting before further restrictions made it impossible. Terri Reilly is recovering from more cancer treatment and Margaret Shand is as well as can be in a Care Home.



Wishing you all the very best 2021 ever



Hand painted bookmarks by Alison Harrison

SOROPTIMISM

In every field of duty, In every land and clime, Soroptimism flourishes and greater grows with time.

The hands we clasp in greeting reach far across the seas, and symbolise the comradeship that fosters lasting peace.

We acknowledge and thank Margaret Smith, our resident photographer for the majority of the photographs within this publication.

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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