

**March
2024**

number 63 newsletter



Ann Garvie, Chair

Welcome to our March newsletter.

The Annual General Meeting for number 63 is this month and I want to say thank you and goodbye to our retiring Directors and welcome to the new Directors.

The hotel has been quiet over January with only 33% occupancy and February is looking quiet, too. Do read the article from SI Bristol and please do think about coming for a visit to London or holding one of your meetings at Hotel 63 this wonderful hotel is seen as a safe home for many Soroptimists and their families and friends when visiting London. Your support is needed more than before.

Thank you to Pat Dale, SI Croydon for continuing to lead the 500 Club. Soroptimist members, a Club, a Region or any non - non-Soroptimist can buy a number. It is £12 for one number for one year and there is no limit to how many numbers you can have. The draw takes place on the last Friday of each month and two awards are made of £50. 50% of all contributions help with the continuing maintenance, 45% is issued as prize money and 5% is for administration costs.

I wish to thank all of the Directors of the Board for their unstinting work and their diligence and the Shareholders for their continued support of number 63.

Best wishes to you all.

Yours,
Ann

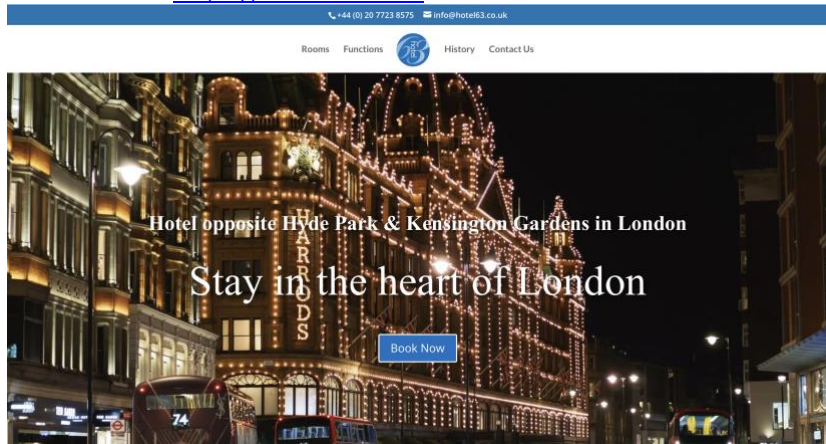


Hotel 63 update

We now have a presence on Instagram. Please, if you have Instagram do follow us.

https://www.instagram.com/hotel63_uk/

The website has been updated and booking direct on the site will give you the best rate available <https://hotel63.co.uk>



Outgoing Directors



Carwen Wynne Howells

I have served as a Director of Number 63 since 2021. I have enjoyed the experience of working with my fellow Directors and seeing Number 63 through some difficult times, particularly during the recent pandemic followed by the unfortunate flooding of the premises and its devastating effects on the fabric of the building.

Seeing Hotel 63 evolve under 'new management' has been fascinating and the General Manager and her team are to be congratulated on their efforts to breathe new life into the 'old lady'.

I am stepping down as Director but staying as Board Administrator and in this role will support the new Board of Directors in any way I can.



Kay Linnell

I would like to thank the shareholders for allowing me to serve as Finance Director for the last 6 years. These have been challenging times with COVID-19 closures, a catastrophic flood and staff changes.

We are fortunate to have a vibrant manager in Victoria to implement the transitional period and now we are ready to move to saving up again and fundraising for the long-awaited refurbishment.

The hotel facility is running smoothly but the offering to shareholders and Soroptimists now needs to be put back in place. I am delighted to leave the financial strategy with Reena Bhanotha a safe and lively pair of hands with great expertise and accountancy skills. We are all lucky to have her. Thank you again.

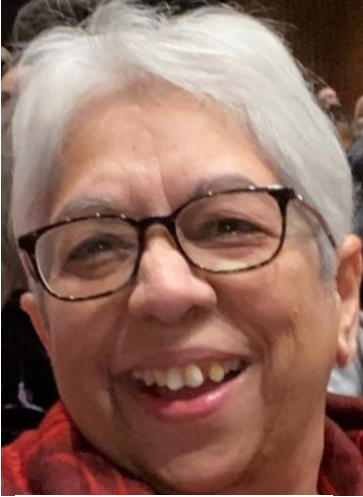


Isobel Smith

I have enjoyed my 3 years on the Board working with like-minded people devoted to this worthy cause. I deeply appreciate all the valuable experiences I have gained. Working with the Ambassadors and the rest of the team has been a sincere pleasure.

Thank you to the shareholders for the opportunity to be part of this worthy cause and I look forward to following the progress the new Board will make.

My very best wishes to the incoming Directors and I will continue to promote and support Hotel 63 in a shareholder capacity.



Pat Dale

I have served as director for the last three years at 63 and have become very fond of the place. As a newbie on the board, I found myself learning about hospitality, Human Resources and accountability.

To me, 63 is part of being a Soroptimist. I can understand the connection of shareholders to this place, which they can call their second home in London.

It has been a privilege to be part of this board. I would recommend all Soroptimists take an active role in ensuring that their second home survives for future Soroptimists.

Our manager Victoria is an asset and has a good team working for her. I wish them all the best. The team is friendly and helpful.



Margaret Emsley

The start of my term of office as a member of the Number 63 Board three years ago coincided with the introduction of the third national lockdown in England. The impact of Covid has been devastating at a global level and Hotel 63 has not been immune from its effect.

The way we live now has undergone many fast-paced changes and to be successful, Hotel 63 has to attract customers from as many sources as possible, not just those who are Soroptimists. We have been very fortunate to employ an exceptional manager, Victoria, who in turn has employed excellent staff.

Our most pressing challenge now is to generate the funding to allow the essential maintenance and improvements to the structure and fabric of the building to become a reality and I wish the new board every success in meeting this challenge.



Ann Garvie, Chair

The two big challenges for the Chairman, and all Directors, were the impact of COVID and the consequence to the fabric of the building as a consequence of the horrific flood in July 2021.

Despite these challenges, there have been exciting times especially the impact of the creativity of the General Manager, Victoria, whom I thank most sincerely.

The future challenge for the Directors is the critical need for upgrading the fabric of the building and in particular securing the funds to do so.



Number 63 (Sorooptimist) Limited 500 Club

I wish to subscribe for number(s) in the **500 Club** for 12 monthly draws

- Paying by BACs for **£12 per number reference 500 and your surname Number 63 (Sorooptimist) Ltd 500 Club**
- by enclosing a cheque for **£12 per number payable to Number 63 (Sorooptimist) Ltd 500 Club**
- by Standing Order at **£12 per number to be renewed annually**

Name.....

Address..... email.....

.....

Phone Number..... Club..... Region.....

GDPR Please confirm that you are happy for me to keep your records for the sole purpose of 500 Club.

Please tick, highlight or circle how to contact you - I consent to be contacted by email/phone/post

Payment by Standing Order

Please accept my Payment for the Number 63 (Sorooptimist) Ltd 500 Club to be paid by Standing Order until cancelled by me in writing.

Please pay the sum of £..... annually to: -

Nat West Bank PLC Account name: Number 63 (Sorooptimist) Ltd 500 Club

**52 Fawcett Street
Sunderland
Tyne & Wear
SR1 1SB**

**Account number: 36354015
Sort code: 55-61-11**

Name of Account Holder.....

ToBank

Ref No.....(leave blank)

Sort Code.....

Home Address.....

Bank Address.....

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Signature.....

Account Number.....

Start Date.....until further notice.

Please return the entire form to: -

Pat Dale, 187 Addington Road, South Croydon, CR2 8LN

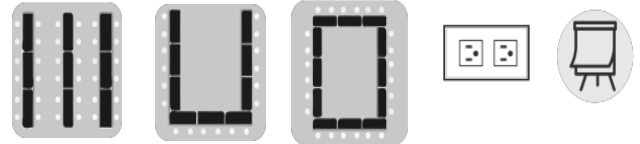
pat_dale@hotmail.com

Hire number 63 Hotel for meetings and events.

We have two meeting rooms for hire for meetings, events, or conferences for **business** or **personal** use.



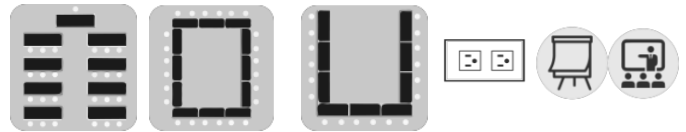
1. Dining room, which is available after 10.30 am, and can be used for up to 14 board room style or 16 cabaret style.



Dining Room layout and facilities



2. Large meeting room can accommodate up to 30 people theatre style, 24 cabaret style and up to 16 board room style. The room has full Wi-Fi, an interactive whiteboard (laptop provided, a data projector and a flip chart).



Large Meeting Room layout and facilities

Meeting Room Hire Charges:

- Per hour: £60.00
- Half Day up to 4 hours: £200.00
- 5 Hours: £240.00
- 6 Hours: £265.00
- Full Day up to 8 hours: £350.00

Refreshments All prices are per person and inclusive of VAT. Food needs to be ordered and paid for 7 days in advance of the booking. Final numbers can be confirmed up to 7 working days prior.

- Coffee & Tea with Biscuits £4.00 per person. (Served twice only)
- Fruit Juice (10 people) £9.00
- Pastry Stop Danish pastries plus tea or coffee £8.00 per person.
- Cake Breaks Selection of cakes plus tea or coffee £10.00 per person.
- Selection of Fresh Sandwiches £12.00 per person

Please make us aware of any food allergies or special dietary requirements. We can provide allergen information about ingredients on request.

Booking - contact us at info@hotel63.co.uk or call 0207 723 8575.

SI Kidderminster Club and how they benefited from the 500 Club

Last year Kidderminster Club decided to support Number 63's 500 Club by subscribing for 14 numbers from surplus Club funds, which equates to one for each of our members. We are quite a small Club with 14 members, and we saw this as a way of supporting Number 63 and also fundraising with any winnings going into Club funds. To our great delight, we were winners in the January Draw with the cheque arriving on a very grey Monday. This money is going to support a young person to participate in the Midland Arden Region Public Speaking Competition being held in March. This is the 20th Competition and gives young people the opportunity to gain confidence by speaking in public. We have been supporting this event for several years and are sponsoring two participants this year from Baxter College in Kidderminster. This is a mixed secondary school with academy status providing education for pupils aged 11-18 years. The winnings came at the right time to enable us to sponsor both participants.

SI Bristol's trip to London and Stay at Hotel 63

Our annual Soroptimist weekend trip to London was exciting! It was a wonderful opportunity to stay at the Soroptimist Hotel, Number 63, explore the vibrant city, experience fun things and bond as a group. London offers such a wide range of attractions and activities!

Some of our members visited the BBC Earth Experience on Thursday, an unforgettable journey through the natural world, exploring the unique and extraordinary diversity of our seven continents on the most epic scale with narration from David Attenborough. BBC Earth Experience showcased breath taking footage and music from the BBC Studios Natural History Unit. <https://bbcearthexperience.com/london>



We all met for dinner on that first night which was followed by us seeing a wonderful and innovative production of *Guys and Dolls* at the Bridge Theatre, both thanks to Ruth.

Friday was filled firstly with a visit to the bronze sculpture by Marc and Gillis beside Paddington Train Station, where large bronze animal figures sit at a picnic table, then the Charles Dickens Museum (via the new Elizabeth Line).



After lunch, we went to Marble Arch to see Frameless <https://frameless.com> the marvellous multi-sensory immersive art exhibition. We were surrounded by well-known masterpieces at this multidimensional venue, which uses motion sensors and virtual art projection technology to bring works of art to life as you navigate the rooms. Showcasing no less than 42 different digital interpretations of 29 of the world's most iconic artists, including masterpieces from the likes of Cezanne, Kandinsky, Monet, Dalí, Van Gogh, Signac, Canaletto, Turner, Rembrandt and Klimt, to name just a few, all set to a score of classical and contemporary music. The interpretation of Turner's 'The Fighting Temeraire' moving through the storm was most impressive and we were truly transported.

Saturday was a walking day through Kensington to visit St Mary Abbots Church, the parish church of Isambard Kingdom Brunel and Oscar Wilde, amongst many other famous figures. The earliest record is a mention of a church in the Domesday Book, making it the site of the first church in Kensington and a place of worship for over 1000 years. The present parish church was designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott, possibly the most famous and sought after architect of his day.



We also made our way through Portobello Market, a vibrant place on Saturdays. Some members explored other museums and galleries, taking a stroll through Hyde Park (immediately opposite Number 63, our Soroptimist hotel) as well as going to an opera.

A very successful and most enjoyable trip away and in good company was the consensus. Here's to a repeat next year!

What's on in London?

March

International Women's Day

Celebrate the successes of women in the capital and beyond on [International Women's Day](#) in London. Join talks and tours and look out for special events at female-run restaurants around the city. **8 Mar**

Mother's Day



Take Mum for a day out in London for Mother's Day. Image courtesy of Shutterstock.

Shower your mum with love on [Mother's Day](#) and find the best things to do in London on Mother's Day to treat her to a day out in the capital, including award-winning restaurants, West End theatre shows and colourfully blooming London gardens. **10 Mar**

Ramadan

Explore the rich selection of events across the city that educate, observe and reflect on the Muslim tradition of **Ramadan**. Enjoy some of the city's top halal and vegan food options at [London restaurants](#) during the holy month to satisfy Iftar. **10 Mar-8 Apr**

St Patrick's Day

Catch the colourful [St Patrick's Day Parade](#) through central London and then watch live performances from famous Irish musicians, as well as rising stars and special guests, in Trafalgar Square. Check out the market of craft stalls and tuck into traditional and modern Irish food. **17 Mar**

Easter

Spend the long [Easter weekend](#) in London enjoying egg hunts, themed attractions, Easter-specific performances or a Sunday lunch. Good Friday and Easter Monday are bank holidays in the UK. **29 Mar-1 Apr**

The Passion of Jesus at Trafalgar Square

Watch a biblical story performed by 100 actors at the annual staging of [The Passion of Jesus](#) in Trafalgar Square, which takes place on Good Friday. The two 90-minute performances are free and

attract thousands of visitors to witness the scene in central London. **29 Mar**

Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race

Cheer on the rowers on the river Thames at the annual [Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race](#), one of the world's oldest sporting events. The Boat Race runs between Putney and Mortlake, and spectators line the banks of the river for this popular event. **30 Mar**

London Borough of Culture

Pick from a huge list of activities taking place in Croydon during the full-year programme for [The Mayor's London Borough of Culture](#). Enjoy a fantastic line up of flagship events, including storytelling, live music and performances around this south London neighbourhood. **Until 31 Mar**

[Find more March events in London](#)

April

London Games Festival

Get your game on at the [London Games Festival](#), one of the biggest events of its kind in the world. Jump into the festival's hands-on activities and check out the latest in the culture and business of the games world. **9-25 Apr**

London Marathon

Run, walk or cheer on participants from the sidelines during the [London Marathon](#). Join thousands of runners and spectators on the streets of the capital at this annual event that's a sporting institution in London. **21 Apr**

Vaisakhi Festival in Trafalgar Square

Mark the start of the Sikh New Year with live music, art displays, family activities and crafts at the [Vaisakhi Festival](#) in Trafalgar Square. The festival marks the day in 1699 when Guru Gobind Singh created the Khalsa order, and the events are open to all. **Apr TBC**

St George's Day in Trafalgar Square

Celebrate all things English in the lively capital during [St George's Day](#). Watch the iconic square come to life with its host of performers, live music and installations, or delve into the heritage and culture of the nation with family-friendly workshops and food stalls. **Apr TBC**

Eid Festival in Trafalgar Square

Join in the celebrations at the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan at the [Eid Festival](#) in Trafalgar Square. Taste food from various stalls, see displays of work by Muslim artists and watch live music on the main stage. **Apr TBC**

[Find more April events in London](#)