

May
2024

number 63 newsletter



Welcome to our May newsletter.

First of all, "Thank You" to the outgoing Chair, Ann Garvie, who has tirelessly worked for Hotel 63 for many years. I am the new Chair of the Number 63 Board and up until the AGM I was a co-opted member of the Number 63 Board.

The AGM took place on March 20th, 2024, and saw several Directors retire, in their place, some new 'faces' came onto the Board. They are Helen Scourfield, Bozena Benton, Reena Bhanotha, Pat Dale who is continuing on the Board and myself. Thanks go to them for agreeing to take office and to Carwen Wynne Howells, who provides Board admin support. On behalf of all the Board Directors, I want to thank the Shareholders for their continued support of number 63.

Many thanks to Pat Dale, SI Croydon who continues to lead the 500. Club. Soroptimist members, a Club, a Region, or a 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.

This edition of the newsletter highlights a special event held in Hotel 63 on St. George's Day, April 23rd and there is a feature on the new Board team in this newsletter, as well as an application form for the 500 Club.

Hotel 63 offers a safe home for many Soroptimists and Guests from the United Kingdom and worldwide. Located in a great part of London it is well situated for weekend breaks, sightseeing holidays, and special celebrations. Your continued support is welcome and needed.

Yours,
Sue Edgar
Chair

Hotel 63 update

2024	Occupancy rate currently
May	83%
June	87%
July	70%

Most bookings are coming from the [booking.com](https://www.booking.com) platform despite its commission charges. It is 15 per cent cheaper to book through our hotel website, <https://hotel63.co.uk>. Some people are using the number 63 website for enquiries but **please note** it doesn't go through to the hotel, **it is the Hotel 63 website address you need to use.**

Every Sunday night there is a 15 per cent discount on room bookings. This offer is valid till the 22nd of December NB It cannot be used with any other discounts and is subject to availability. The suite room also has a camp bed (so max guests become 3) the bed is £20.00 per night. Both Sales and Gross Profit are slightly up on those for 2023. The Board room is booked every Tuesday and Thursday by a local Thai Chi group and Age UK has used the meeting room twice in the last month.

In April, a Soroptimist event hosting guests from the Cambodian Club in Phnom Penh enjoyed an afternoon of tea and cake at Hotel 63. Now that the summer is here the hotel has introduced afternoon tea at £12.00 per person for a pot of tea, a scone, jam, and cream If you are coming to London, or thinking of a Friendship weekend then please check out availability at the Hotel. The Board aims to build on these events and will explore creative ways to market these spaces for local community groups, Soroptimist International Clubs, and local business groups.



Incoming Directors



Sue Edgar

I am a member of Soroptimist International East Grinstead Club in West Sussex. I have been Club President for two consecutive years during the pandemic and am currently the President-Elect of SI South East England.

I joined my local Club after a career working with global management consultancies, specifically in delivering research and knowledge management programmes.

'I am looking forward to working with the new Board as we continue to support the hotel team at 63.'



Helen Scourfield

I have been a member of SI for 27 years and President-Elect of SI Wales South, and am coming into office in November, 2024. I run my own NVQ - Vocational Education Centre for Construction and Civil Engineering, employing over 10 Assessors in the UK. Lead Verifier/Consultant for Coleg Sir Gar in Construction, Winter Maintenance, Scaffold and Land-based Sectors, plus a Consultant for two companies in Ireland covering Occupational Health and Safety Level 6.

Presently Member of Glas Cymru which is a section of Dwr Cymru (Welsh Water) and a School Governor at Primary School Level.



Pat Dale

I have served as director for the last three years at 63 and have become very fond of the place. 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.



Reena Bhanatha

Do you know an iconic hotel with a unique history related to women? That's Hotel 63 in London. Having lived in Africa, Asia and Europe I have always found discovering new places exciting and exploring solutions, too! A Soroptimist from Croydon and District and a Chartered Accountant by profession, who can always be seen reading, a keen visitor to the theatre and music events and looking for a paradise to swim in, I am excited to be a part of an incredible Soroptimist team!

These are challenging times, but we know we will move forward, slowly but surely. We look forward to the greater involvement of the sisterhood in its association with the hotel, as in the past, and always.

A Soroptimist Friendship Event at Hotel 63

Passing the friendship and hospitality baton to our region, we welcomed six Soroptimists from Phnom Penh who had been staying with members of SI Chester. They developed a great itinerary for them including visits to SI Rhyl, Liverpool and Chester. The programme covered workshops on stress management, membership from retention to new members as well as exchanging information regarding local and Cambodian Programme Action activities smattered with some great social events!

How did this all come about? A Chester Soroptimist visited the Cambodian Club and made contact. Then an SI Lewes member, Larisa Dorman-Gajic made contact when travelling in Cambodia. A plan was hatched to host the visitors who were to spend from 22nd April to 25th April (their last few days) in London. They stayed in Camden with Larisa and the Gajic family put together a London itinerary. Vera (SI Lewes) was instrumental in facilitating the visit along with her daughters, husband and sister.

On Tuesday 23rd April, Hotel 63 were delighted to host an afternoon tea in the Board Room to hear first-hand about the North West visit and more importantly the Programme Action they have been working on. Quite incredible what they have been able to achieve. The conversation flowed with much laughter as we got to know each other.



SI SEE and London Clubs had members join in the afternoon. From SI Croydon- Pat Dale and Roxanne St. Clair, SI East Grinstead Sue Edgar and Maureen Briggs, SI Lewes Vera Gajic and Larisa Dorman-Gajic, SI Greater London Barbara Diamant and Angela Elkohly. Allison Driscoll, the current (South East Region) President sent her apologies.

The next day the group had a full day sightseeing in Greenwich, the City and Southbank. Helen Byrne and Jane Slatter (Pinky) from St Albans joined Soroptimists from Lewes during the day and Molly Robinson from Greater London joined the group for an evening meal in a Camden Pub near where they were being hosted by Larisa. The Greater London Club covered the cost of the Cambodian members' meals. Lewes club gave £100 towards travel and food expenses.

We were inspired by the long list of projects the Phnom Penh Club (the only Soroptimist Club in Cambodia) is supporting or developing including toilet building in rural schools and buying bicycles for

rural malaria outreach workers. They have also been involved with the Soroptimist International President's education project in Cambodia. They are also supported by Clubs in Australia.



A sad goodbye leaves a fantastic memory for all... see you in Cambodia?



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.....

.....

.....

Signature..... Account Number.....

Start Date.....until further notice.

Please return the entire form to: - Pat Dale, 187 Addington Road, South Croydon, CR2 8LN

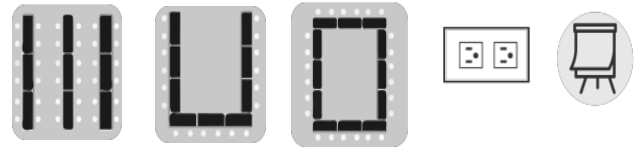
pat_dale@hotmail.com

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.



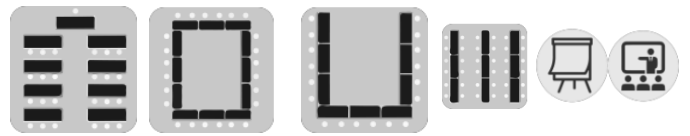
1. Dining room, which is available after 10.30 am, and can be used for up to 14 board room style or 16 cabaret style.



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
- Cream tea of a pot of tea, scone, jam and cream at £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.

What's on in London?

Unmissable London events May 2024



The Silk Road Garden at RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2017. Copyright: RHS/Georgi Mabee. Image courtesy of RHS.

1. Tuck into delicious cuisine at the [Foodies Festival in Syon Park](#): See top music acts, and demonstrations by celebrity chefs and join exciting cooking classes. **25-27 May**
2. Dance the night away at [Soul City at the Jazz Cafe](#) in Camden: Connect the dots between disco and house at this historic venue.
3. Don't miss the brand-new [The Paddington Experience](#): Meet Paddington, the Brown family and friends as they prepare for the Marmalade Day Festival! Opens **31 May**
4. Enjoy a night of laughs at the [West End Comedy Club](#): See up-and-coming acts and comedy legends at this iconic venue in the heart of London.
5. Marvel at stunning horticultural displays at the [RHS Chelsea Flower Show](#): Pick up the latest gardening trends and rehome a plant or two. **21-25 May**
6. Attend a [Fraternité](#) talk at [Westminster Abbey](#): Join Alison Weir and Sarah Gristwood as they explore the relationship between the courts of Tudor England and Renaissance France. **16 May**
7. Hop aboard an Uber Boat Thames Clipper for a rather special [Sofar Sounds session](#): See live music acts as you enjoy views of the London skyline from the river. **18 Apr**
8. Head to Greenwich Peninsula for their [Urban Village Fete](#): Enjoy tunes by legendary DJ Gilles Peterson, enjoy London's best street food and see creative talks and inspiring speakers. **19 May**
9. Join the [National Gallery](#) in celebrating its [Bicentenary](#): Enjoy exciting events to mark 200 years dedicated to bringing people and paintings together. From **10 May**
10. Attend the [European Writers' Festival](#) at the British Library: See thirty leading and emerging writers respond to the 2024 theme of 'Transformation'. **18-19 May**
11. Head to Brockwell Park for [Wide Awake Festival](#): This independent festival is for those looking for something different with the best up-and-coming talent alongside top bands. **25 May**
12. Enjoy carnival vibes at [City Splash Festival](#): Celebrate the impact of Caribbean and African culture in the UK music scene, from Roots and Dub to Jungle and Garage. **27 May**
13. Grab your ticket to [Cross The Tracks](#): Don't miss London's number-one jazz, funk and soul festival that promises great music, food, workshops, talks and more. **26 May**
14. Get your fill of beautiful flower displays at the [Belgravia in Bloom](#) festival: Wander through the streets lined with exquisite floral displays and experiences. **20-27 May**
15. Or admire vibrant floral displays at Chelsea in Bloom: See the streets of Chelsea burst with colour at London's largest free flower festival. **20-26 May**

London Theatre in May



Don't miss Cara Delevingne in CABARET at the Kit Kat Club. Image courtesy of Raw PR. Photo Credit: Marc Brenner

1. Make the most of the warmer weather with a show at [Regent's Park Open Air Theatre](#): Catch an exciting production of [Twelfth Night](#), kid's favourite [The Enormous Crocodile](#) and a musical classic [Fiddler on the Roof](#).
2. Catch celebrated actor Brian Cox in [Long Day's Journey into Night](#) at Wyndham's Theatre: Immerse yourself in a tangled web of chaotic family relationships.
3. Uncover stories of modern Britain at [Standing at the Sky's Edge](#): Follow the hopes and dreams of three generations in this moving musical adaptation.
4. See stage legend Ian McKellen in [Player Kings](#) at the Noel Coward Theatre: A coming together of two Shakespearean Greats.
5. Be spellbound with [Wicked London tickets](#) at the Apollo Victoria: Experience magic as you watch the witches in The Wizard of Oz.
6. Meet the sassy Sister Mary Clarence at [Sister Act](#) at the Dominion Theatre: Discover the life-affirming story of a woman finding her way in the world after marriage and motherhood.
7. Watch Cara Delevingne in Cabaret at the [Kit Kat Club](#): A musical like no other, don't miss this spectacular show that promises catchy tunes and dazzling dance numbers.
8. Sing along to top pop hits at [ABBA Voyage](#) at the ABBA Arena: See the world's favourite pop band perform together once again in this unforgettable show.
9. Or join the immersive [Mamma Mia! The Party](#) at The O2: The ultimate dinner with a show featuring ABBA's most catchy hit songs.

London exhibitions in May 2024



Discover never-seen-before images of Princess Diana and her family at Dockside Vaults. Image courtesy of Golden Tours.

1. Be captivated by the brand-new **Princess Diana: Accredited Access Exhibition**: Journey through the life of the late princess through this intimate exhibition. **Opens 25 May**
2. Head to the **King's Gallery** for the Royal Portraits: A Century of Photography exhibition: portraiture has played a vital role in shaping public perception of the royals. **Opens 17 May**
3. Immerse yourself in world-famous artwork at **Frameless**: See the inspiring works of Van Gogh, Picasso and more brought to life.
4. Don't miss **Fragile Beauty** at the Victoria and Albert Museum: Enjoy photographs from the Sir Elton John and David Furnish collection. **Opens 18 May**
5. Explore the works of **Angelica Kauffman** at the Royal Academy of Arts: See inspiring pieces from of the most celebrated artists of the 18th century.
6. Take the family to see **Japan: Myths to Manga** at the Young V&A: Go on an atmospheric trip through Japanese history at this eclectic exhibition.

Unmissable events in London in June



Celebrate London Pride. Image courtesy of Shutterstock

1. Enjoy a series of sensational concerts at the **Hampton Court Palace Festival**: See top music acts such as Sir Tom Jones and Jessie J at this exciting summer event. **11-22 June**
2. Discover new galleries and art across the capital during **London Gallery Weekend**: A three-day programme of talks, exciting activities for families and other special events which are free and open to all. **31 May-2 Jun**
3. Enjoy two days of fun from the musicals at **West End LIVE**: Get a taste of the capital's theatre scene with free performances from London's top shows. **22-23 Jun**
4. Celebrate **Pride in London**: Join **the capital's LGBTQ+** community for events and activities at LGBTQ+ bars and across the city, culminating in the famous parade each **July. 1 Jun-1 Jul**
5. Put your gaming skills to the test at **Power Up** at the **Science Museum**: Immerse yourself in this hands-on gaming experience that includes top games and consoles from the past 50 years.
6. **Chaka Khan's Meltdown Festival** at the Southbank Centre this summer: The iconic singer curates a spectacular musical program to be enjoyed in the city this summer. **14-23 June**
7. Get involved with **The Great Exhibition Road Festival** in South Kensington: Explore the themed zones and uncover exciting interactive displays and live experiments. **15-16 Jun**
8. Join an exciting program of events at the **London Wetland Centre**: **Designed to inspire visitors to have a deeper experience with nature through creative expression.**
9. See performances by talented student musicians on the **Ambassadors of Museum Program**: Don't miss the London leg of this inspiring European tour that promises an unforgettable music experience. **Saturdays and Sundays**

Theatre shows to see in London in June

1. Head to **Regent's Park Open Air Theatre** for a memorable evening of outdoor entertainment: **See hit shows at this spectacular outdoor theatre.**
2. See the celebrated Roald Dahl children's book brought to life on stage at **Matilda The Musical** at the Cambridge Theatre: **Magic and mayhem await at this hit show.**
3. Transport yourself to the Serengeti with **The Lion King tickets London** at the Lyceum Theatre: **Be wowed by sensational sets and costumes as you follow Simba's adventures.**
4. Experience the electric sounds of The King of Pop at **MJ The Musical** at the Prince Edward Theatre: **See the much-anticipated show in London's West End.**
5. Discover notorious girl gang The Plastics in **Mean Girls at Savoy Theatre**: **Brace yourself for a high-energy ride through high school drama.**
6. Meet the world's most hilarious housekeeper at **Mrs Doubtfire** at the Shaftesbury Theatre: **See the delightful stage adaptation of the hit film.**

Concerts and festivals in London in June



Crowds picnic in the gardens during the Hampton Court Palace Festival. © Joshua Atkins.

1. See great musicians at an iconic venue at **Hampton Court Palace Festival**: With hits from the legendary Tom Jones, Nile Rodgers and CHIC, and many more. **11-21 Jun**
2. Get involved with London's independent festival **Camden Rocks**: Showcasing hundreds of the best new and established bands across Camden Town. **Select dates in June!**
3. Enjoy folk tunes at the **Harrison All Day Festival**: This unique festival features folk, world and jazz acts from the local music scene. **23, 28 Jun**
4. Don't miss top music acts at **Mighty Hoopla in Brockwell Park**: This year's line-up features pop sensation **Rita Ora** and the iconic **Nelly Furtado**. **1-2 Jun**
5. Take the kids to the **Lambeth Country Show**: One of the UK's biggest family-friendly festivals, enjoy a great weekend of entertainment with live shows, street food and more.
6. **Get your tickets to British Summer Time Hyde Park**: One of the UK's most iconic festivals, this year you'll see SZA, Kings of Leon, Andrea Bocelli and Shania Twain take to the stage.