

October  
2024

# number 63 newsletter



Sue Edgar  
Chair

## Welcome to our October newsletter.

I hope this newsletter finds you well as we find ourselves in Autumn and hurtling towards the Festive Season!

I and the Board Members continue to work with the hotel General Manager (and her team) to ensure that all visitors enjoy their stay at Hotel 63. We do face challenges in a very competitive market for occupancy sales; however, I can report that occupancy rates are strong with sales from May to August ahead of those in 2023.

## Hotel 63 update

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



Hotel 63  
Bayswater Road

Bookings continue to mainly come from the [booking.com](https://www.booking.com) platform. The market in London reveals that bookings are made around the three-month mark before arrival. This can mean that rooms are not available for that last-minute weekend you want to plan. Please contact the hotel directly in that case, as rooms may have been made available even though it shows booked out via booking.com. If you are looking to book a room, go to the website <https://hotel63.co.uk> and make a direct booking to get the best rate available

As you may expect from a listed building of a certain age, keeping all the rooms available for sale can be challenging. Ensuring that the facilities are serviceable, and welcoming is an ongoing challenge that staff face on a day-to-day basis. We have upgraded several appliances and with the General Manager, the Board are focused on how we can maintain this wonderful, listed building. If you are looking for ideas for gifts, then why not treat a friend or family member to a stay at Number 63?



The hotel now has a presence on Instagram so follow us for news.

## Number 63 Changes



It is with some sadness and a huge Thank You that the Board says a fond farewell to Pat Dale MBE who has been an avid promoter of all things '63', especially the 500 Club. Pat resigned at the last AGM and was persuaded to rejoin ensuring we had a Board with the required number of Directors to satisfy the Rules. Please join us in wishing her every success in all that she does going forward. Pat will continue to drive the 500 Club forward and will be at the Edinburgh Conference - 1st - 3rd November 2024. Canvassing for new members and Clubs to join this lottery.



We are also saying goodbye to Reena Bhanotha, Finance Director who has resigned and will leave the Board on 1st November 2024. We shall miss her strategic vision and professional expertise and wish Reena every success in her next endeavour.



The Board would like to thank Isobel Smith, editor of this Newsletter. When Isobel joined as a Director, she transformed the way 63 communicates with shareholders and Soroptimists. This is her last Newsletter.

## Hotel 63 Staff Pumpkin Competition





## Oh, what a surprise! Lesley Morgan, SI Cwmbran

For many years ago, when frequently being in London for meetings, I stayed at Number 63. Feeling both welcome and comfortable with easy access to Paddington Station, it was ideal. I then realised that if I held shares in number 63, I could stay at Soroptimists rates, another plus. Sometime later, I had a delightful and interesting lunch at the House of Lords, organised by the Number 63 committee, another plus with extras. I had visited the Houses of Parliament many years ago with my Mum and later attended Pharmacy meetings there but could never quite link the different parts or piece together the history and traditions. Part of this visit was a guided tour and plenty of explanations about purpose and traditions. Oh, the things you learn by being a Soroptimist. Being now old and grey, London is not quite so attractive. However, I then discovered that if I joined the 500 Club, for £12 a year I could still support Number 63. Helping in some small way to support others who may benefit from staying at Number 63. Imagine my surprise at receiving a letter, a few years ago, with a cheque. I had won £50 in the 500-club draw. Even greater surprise, just last week, I received another letter and another £50 cheque.

I am still able to stay at Number 63 if I need to. Keeping this beautiful home from home with its warm welcome is expensive and a challenge to the management team. Soroptimists are good at meeting a challenge, so I challenge all members and clubs to join the 500 club and ensure that all members can enjoy our London home. 500 Club subscription form. <https://number63.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/500-form.pdf>

## *Congratulations*

100 years of Soroptimist clubs in London



The Soroptimists gathered to celebrate 100 years in London at an event at the hotel! The Greater London Club, founded in 1923 and chartered in 1924, marked this milestone with an evening of laughter and camaraderie. Elizabeth Hawes, a founding member and past SIGBI President (1937-1938), would surely be proud of the Club's vibrant spirit today. Far from slowing down, the Greater London Club is thriving, with recent celebrations infusing fresh energy and excitement. You may even spot some familiar faces in the photos!

## Midland Ardent visit to London and a two-night stay at Hotel 63

### Sue Harrop SI Bromsgrove and Redditch

Liz (Regional President) and I arrived Thursday lunchtime and had lunch in the café by the Serpentine. We then walked around the south side of Hyde Park to Kensington Palace and to the gardens, including the Princess of Wales memorial garden and a beautiful wildflower meadow.



Friday morning two of us from SI Bromsgrove and Redditch and one from SI Kidderminster walked to the Wallace Collection.



We spent the rest of the morning there and enjoyed lunch in their café. After lunch we walked up Marylebone High Street to Regents Park and spent time in the various themed gardens and the rose garden, followed by a cup of tea.



We got the bus back to No 63 (took us door to door – perfect).

Groups went their own way in the evening. 4 of us went to see a production at the Marylebone Theatre *The Government Inspector* a satirical play first written by **Nikolai Gogol** in 1836, now

reimagined for a modern stage. We weren't quite sure what to make of it. An interesting experience nevertheless!

Saturday morning two of us decided to walk through the east side of Hyde Park towards the Mall and Buckingham Palace, hoping for a view of the Changing of the Guard Massed Bands of the Household Division march up The Mall to Buckingham Palace. And weren't we lucky, they passed by us just before Hyde Park Corner, and we had an unrestricted view?



We found a coffee place and then walked back a different way to No 63. A super three days.

#### Margaretmary Griffin SI Coventry

Six of us from SI Coventry joined the other ladies from the Region who were staying at No 63 for three days in June. We enjoyed a lovely dinner together at an Italian Restaurant called Bizarro, close to the Hotel on the first evening.



We managed to successfully negotiate the buses around the City, using our bus passes! We watched the rehearsal of Trooping the Colour in the Mall and went into the beautiful Art Gallery for coffee.



We took the Uber boat from Embankment down to Battersea Power Station, zooming up the tower into the skies, absolutely breathtaking! Followed by a delicious tapas lunch overlooking the river.



We even managed to take in a Show at the Criterion - 'Two strangers', preceded by lunch in Piccadilly. A truly memorable action-packed three days in London.

**Celia Charlesworth SI Bromsgrove and Redditch**

### **Friday in London**

After a good breakfast at Hotel 63, a friend, who is an SI Solihull member, and I set off for Leicester Square, where we hoped to get tickets for the theatre that evening for 4 of us. The weather was lovely, so it was a pleasant walk. Once at Piccadilly, we walked through to Leicester Square, where the choice of tickets available at the Ticket Booth was very good. We chose 'The Government Inspector', which was on at the Marylebone Theatre, a theatre we hadn't heard of, but we decided that it must be relatively close to Hotel 63.

We walked down through Trafalgar Square to the Embankment, where we bought tickets for a boat trip to Greenwich. The boat trip took just over an hour and a quarter. Because the weather was good we were able to sit outside on the boat, so had a clear view of everything we went past. We were entertained on the boat by the Crew's commentary, pointing out places of interest, which was often very amusing. Back to Hotel 63, a quick fish and chips at the pub down the road, and then off to the Theatre. It was a very enjoyable few days, and it was good to meet socially with members from other Clubs at the Hotel.

**Sue Merrill SI Kidderminster**

I went solo this year and made a beeline for the Frameless immersive exhibition near Marble Arch. It was truly amazing, with the projected lights on the floor splashing away from the walking feet like leaves on the ground. There were four galleries, each of them different and outstanding. I stayed for four hours, spellbound. Afterwards, I opened my watercolours to paint the War Memorial for Animals in Park Lane. A very restful and productive three and half hours were spent in the quiet oasis of the bustling traffic.



**Sue Clarke SI Kidderminster**

After signing in, another member and I crossed Hyde Park to visit The National History Museum. The next day we went to the Tower of London. We were eager to see the Crown Jewels which did not disappoint when we got there. After walking around for nearly three hours we took an Uber boat up

the Thames to Westminster where we saw the Houses of Parliament, The Cenotaph and Downing Street. We then walked up the Mall and headed back to the Hotel 63 stopping in Hyde Park for a bite to eat.

It was a great trip enjoyed by all.



### Celebrating Our Team Members

We're thrilled to highlight our dedicated team members!

Jonathan has been awarded Employee of the Month twice in 2024 for his excellent work in repainting our interiors after leaks, a task that seems as constant as the Forth Bridge painting project itself. Thank you, Jonathan, for your resilience and dedication!

Our flexible and hardworking Jose has also earned Employee of the Month. For nearly three years, he's been adjusting his schedule to cover shifts and ensure his colleagues can take their much-needed breaks. We appreciate his commitment to supporting the team.

### Enjoy 10% Off!



Your new shareholder membership card will soon arrive, offering a 10% discount on bookings made directly with Hotel 63. Make the most of it by planning a visit to London, where Hotel 63 awaits as a friendly gathering spot for Soroptimists and friends.

### Join the Board!

Our community thrives on support from shareholders like you! We encourage more Soroptimists to consider becoming shareholders or even joining us on the Board. Interested? [Reach out here](#) to learn more.

### Honouring Our History

After recent flood damage, our team preserved photographs and memorabilia in a newly created montage, now displayed near the Boardroom. This tribute safeguards important moments in Hotel 63's history for all to enjoy.

### In Appreciation of Generous Bequests

We extend heartfelt thanks to Katherine Fussell and Edith Yvonne Wright Mullen for their bequests, which will help fund essential building repairs.

### 2024 SIGBI Conference in Edinburgh

Board Members look forward to meeting many of you at the 2024 SIGBI Conference in Edinburgh from November 1st to 3rd in the Assembly Rooms Ballroom. Don't miss the chance to connect!

### Save the date!

The 76<sup>th</sup> AGM will be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2025



# Soroptimist 63 Gin Returns!!

Working again with Gorilla Spirits to deliver a Gin for those G&Ts and Martinis with friends, whatever the weather





## ORDER FORM for Number 63 GIN 2024

<b>Order</b>	
Number of Bottles	
Price per Bottle	£36.00
<b>Total cost</b>	<b>£</b>

Post and Packaging	
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<b>Name</b>	
-------------	--

<b>Address</b>	
Number:	
Street:	
City/Town:	
Post Code:	

Telephone number:	
Email address:	

<b>Club</b>	
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<b>Delivery Address</b>	
Number:	
Street:	
City/Town:	
Post Code:	

<b>Payment - number 63 Bank Details</b>	
Name:	Number 63 (Sorooptimist) Ltd
Account No:	36354015
Sort Code:	55-61-11
Reference:	GIN

### Office use only

<b>To be completed by Finance</b>	
Order details:	
Received on:	
Number of bottles:	
Estimated postage:	
Amount due:	
Despatched on:	
Plus Postage & Packaging:	



**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

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**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.....

To .....Bank

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**

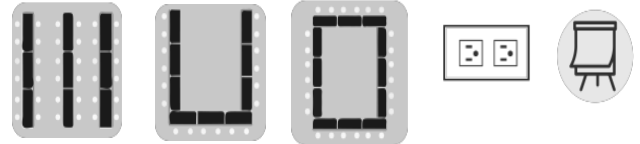
**pat\_dale@hotmail.com**

## 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.



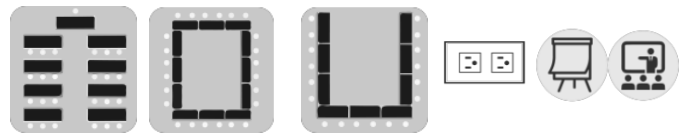
**1. Dining room**, which is available after 10.30 am, and can be used for up to 14 board room style or 16 cabaret style.



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](mailto:info@hotel63.co.uk) or call 0207 723 8575.

## Unmissable events in November



Fireworks Festival at Alexandra Palace. Image courtesy of Alexandra Park & Palace Charitable Trust.

1. **Enjoy the ultimate baking day out at the [Cake and Bake Show London 2024](#):** See live demonstrations, join a masterclass, do a spot of shopping, try delicious treats and much more! **27 Nov-1 Dec**
2. **Get inspired at the [Ideal Home Show Christmas 2024](#):** From amazing gifts to on-trend festive solutions, plan the ultimate Christmas while enjoying free talks and pop-up workshops. **27 Nov-1 Dec**
3. **Admire a colourful array of carriages and costumes at [The Lord Mayor's Show](#):** The 800-year-old inauguration ceremony has evolved into a huge procession of marching bands, floats and dancers. **9 Nov**
4. **Surround yourself with bagpipe melodies during St Andrew's Day in London:** Rock the tartan and feast on haggis and [whisky](#) around the city. **30 Nov**



Learn about the history of London on a walking tour. Credit: London & Partners/Michael Barrow.

1. **Discover all that London has to offer with a [sightseeing pass](#):** Save money by visiting multiple attractions with [The London Pass](#).

2. Or tick off [top sightseeing locations in London](#) with the [Total London Experience](#): A hassle-free day exploring London's best spots.
3. Head out on the river Thames with a [sightseeing cruise](#): Enjoy unrivalled views of the city's best sights, from the [London Eye](#) to [St Paul's Cathedral](#).
4. Take a [hop-on hop-off bus tour](#) around central London's most exciting locations: See London from the comfort of a seat and get off when you feel like it!
5. Take a deep dive into history at [The Postal Museum](#) with their exciting exhibition retracing London's outstanding mailing systems: Discover what the first postcards looked like and learn how mail was delivered across London while riding the Mail Rail.
6. Visit some of London's most revered historical locations: Take in all the sites at [Windsor Castle](#) and [Westminster Abbey](#).
7. Check out some of London's top indoor attractions: Visit the [SEA LIFE London Aquarium](#), [Madame Tussauds](#) and [The London Dungeon](#).
8. Take a [walking tour](#) with an expert local guide: From family-fun on tours such as [Paddington Bear](#), to TV and film favourites [Doctor Who](#) and [James Bond](#).
9. Or be shown around one of London's top attractions on a [British Museum Guided Tour](#): See the vast collection with someone who knows it like the back of their hand.
10. Visit one of London's [lesser-known museums](#): Discover never-before-seen evidence at the [Jack the Ripper Museum](#) and watch the Horse Guards at work at the royal [Household Cavalry Museum](#).
11. Wrap up warm and go on an outdoor aerial adventure at [Gripped London](#): Zip, slide and jump your way through six different adrenaline packed adventure courses.
12. Head to a comedy night at the [West End Comedy Club](#): See comedy veterans and up-and-coming acts at this iconic Covent Garden venue.

### Theatre shows and musicals in London in November



Travel to the world of Oz and discover the story of the unlikely friendship between two witches: Glinda and Elphaba, with Wicked The Musical. Image courtesy of Matt Crockett.

1. Laugh out loud at Roald Dahl's [Matilda](#) at Cambridge Theatre: See the much-loved children's novel reworked into a hilarious musical.
2. Be spellbound with [Wicked musical tickets](#) at the Apollo Victoria: Enjoy spectacular effects and show-stopping songs as the untold story of the witches from The Wizard of Oz comes alive on stage.
3. Don't miss the brand-new stage adaptation of [The Devil Wears Prada](#) at the Dominion Theatre: A hilarious (and stylish!) musical of the blockbuster film and bestselling novel.
4. Be spellbound by [Harry Potter and the Cursed Child](#): Be dazzled by this visual masterpiece on London's West End.
5. Laugh out loud at [Mrs Doubtfire](#) at the Shaftesbury Theatre: Watch as this cult classic film comes to life on the stage.

6. **Return to 1930s Berlin [Cabaret](#) at the Playhouse Theatre:** See this electrifying hit come to life!
7. **Travel back to where it all began in [Stranger Things: The First Shadow](#):** See the hit TV series come to the theatre stage.
8. **Discover the thrilling high school drama [Mean Girls](#):** See the iconic cult classic hit the stage and remember to wear pink!
9. **Laugh out loud at [The Book of Mormon](#):** Direct from the creators of South Park, this musical hit will have you crying with laughter.
10. **Join the dazzling [Mamma Mia! The Party](#):** Dance, dine and have the time of your life at this immersive theatre experience.

### Art exhibitions in London in November



The Garden of Earthly Delights at Frameless, an immersive exhibition in London. Image courtesy of Frameless/Jordan Curtis Hughes.

1. **Discover [Zanele Muholi](#) at Tate Modern:** See the key series of works that includes over 260 pieces from one of the most acclaimed photographers working today. **Until 26 Jan**
2. **See the breathtaking [Frameless](#):** See as much-loved masterpieces come to life through an array of visual effects.
3. **Take a look at the unique [Metalworking Now](#) display at the V&A Museum:** Discover the unusual and beautiful creations in this dynamic field of metalworking. **Until 31 Dec**
4. **See [Flaming June](#) at the Royal Academy of Arts:** Witness Frederic, Lord Leighton's Victorian masterpiece on display in London. **Until 12 Jan**
5. **Experience urban life in Seoul at [PULSE: Hello Delight](#):** Discover 12 interactive rooms with art and light fixtures. **Until 30 Dec**
6. **Learn about the legacy of an icon at [Marilyn: The Exhibition](#):** See personal items and artefacts from the famed actress. **Until 23 Feb**
7. **Visit the [King's Gallery, Buckingham Palace](#):** Discover royal portraits, artworks and much more.
8. **Lift the curtain on fashion's iconic catwalk at [Vogue Exhibition: Inventing the Runway](#):** Watch as fashion unfolds through significant runway events. **From 13 Nov**

### Christmas events in London in November

1. **Enjoy festive fun for all the family at [Winter Wonderland in Hyde Park](#):** Fairground rides, ice skating and family shows await this Christmas.
2. **Attend an enchanting [carol service](#):** Sing along to your favourite Christmas tunes at one of the many shows across the city.
3. **Pick up the perfect gift at London's best [Christmas markets](#):** Peruse the stalls throughout the city and treat yourself to a number of Bavarian dishes and trinkets.
4. **Discover [Windsor Castle](#):** See the royal residence decked out in its Christmas garb!
5. **Enjoy a [London Eye champagne experience](#):** Take in the festive setting atop one of London's highest points!
6. **Head to [Kensington Palace](#) for its Christmas takeover:** See the palace in all its winter glory!