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**Club**  
**Cardigan and District**

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**NAME**  
**Patricia Ford**

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**DATE OF SIWS MEETING Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>.**  
**2017**

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**Date Report sent to PA Chairman**  
**Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> 2017**

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## **EDUCATE**

Two club members attended the award ceremony at Coleg Ceredigion, Cardigan Campus, to present the club's award to female student: Rachel Walker, currently following the Level 2 Diploma in Beauty Therapy.

Rachel was selected by her tutors as a wonderful example of determination to pursue and continue her course in the face of personal illness and losing her mother to cancer, as well as losing her job due to her own illness. A mother of two teenage children, she is intending to return to complete the Level 3 course next year. During her time in college Rachel has attended regularly and been a huge support to other students within her group.

The citation stated: ' Rachel is a strong lady. She decided that she would re-train as a Beauty Therapist. because she realised the value of such therapy to people who are ill and suffering and she is now well on her way to reaching that goal. During the last few months of her life, Rachel's mum benefitted greatly, on a number of levels, from receiving some manicures, pedicures, and facials. Rachel always has a smile on her face and is the first to volunteer her skills at shows and events held by the college to promote the Hair and Beauty department on Saturdays or weekends. She is a credit to the department and she fully deserves this special award.'

Club members feel that not only does the award of £100 help towards her **education** but the recognition by the college and the club goes some way to **Empowering and Enabling** her to continue.

This was the last of our 5- year commitment and we hope to be able to continue our support in future. The occasion is an excellent publicity for Soroptimism as the compere always gives a full introduction to the work of our organisation.

## **Enable and Empower**

### **JIGSO Cardigan**

- Jig-so pre-school children's centre is a charity that facilitates learning through play whilst offering support and advice on parenting in all areas of development
- The club has supported JIGSO over the years and continues to donate to the charity. Several members attended the recent AGM and we are regularly kept in touch with their activities and give support where appropriate.
- Now in its 20<sup>th</sup> year, the centre has moved to new premises in Cardigan, having recently received several special Wales –wide awards.
- The centre is the hub for all the different strands that Jig-so has become, with the main focus being learning through play, developing parenting skills and offering support and advice in all areas of child development whilst sign posting to organisations.
- It is well received by parents and the community at large.

## **Other fund-raising Programme Activity/Projects**

### **Domestic Abuse**

- Our Charity Lunch in October raised £1020.55 from which £720.55 was donated to West Wales Domestic Abuse charity, supported by our speaker.

### **Toilet Twinning**

- The remaining £300 is earmarked for the Toilet Twinning Project for which we have now raised enough for a toilet block and a further single toilet. We are in the process of deciding which country to support with this project , which is ongoing.
- Support for local Girl Guides to attend an international function

## **Other Club Activity**

- **International Day of Peace 2016**

Cardigan and District Soroptimists and friends met on 21st September in St.Colman's Church,

Boncath, to mark the United Nations Day of Peace. After some Peace Songs from Ceredigion

Schools CD, candles were lit, the statement from UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon was read:

'an opportunity to take stock of our efforts to promote peace and well-being for all humanity to

concentrate on the ideals and conditions for peace'.

This was followed by a reading of the Sustainable Development Goals and poems from the Wales

South Soroptimist Book of Peace Poems. Prayers were offered by members and the event closed with

Mother Theresa's Prayer for Peace and a further song from the Flying for Peace Cerdigion Schools'

CD. Members of Soroptimist International worldwide support this important global day.

- **Membership**

Two new members have recently been welcomed into the club, following a display in a local shop window and an article about us in the local paper.

- **Beach Survey for Marine Conservation Society**

We continue our commitment to MRC four times a year in fair weather and foul! It is a practical activity as well as an opportunity to advertise the club and Soroptimism to beachgoers!

- **Meals on Wheels**

The club continues its service to the community by delivering Meals on Wheels each month

## **Working with Partners**

We are committed to working with our nearest Pembrokeshire clubs on Soroptimist Projects and are grateful to our buddy, Carole Evans, for keeping us all in touch

## **ANY ITEMS YOU FEEL SHOULD BE INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

As a long-standing Board Member of Dolen Cymru Wales Lesotho Link, I would like to suggest Executive Director Veronica German and /or Education officer Sharon Flint to give a presentation about the charity to a future PA Meeting. I would also like to propose that SIGBI investigate the possibility of forming a Soroptimist Club in Maseru, capital city of Lesotho. Over the years I have spoken to several key professional women about SIGBI and there is some interest.