

50th Anniversary 2012

Member Ann Topp designed a stunning tea towel for our 50th gift, depicting the Soroptimist logo. Soroptimists from Europe and the UK joined us for a weekend of activities.

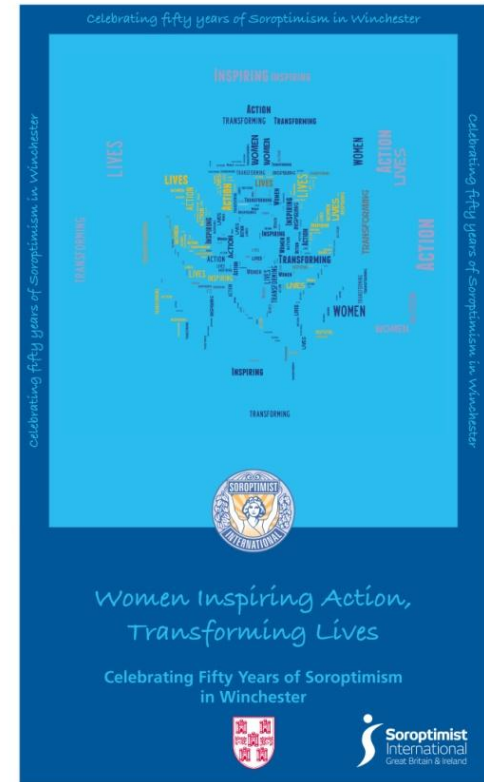
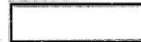
This included an historic tour of Winchester, exploration of Winnall Moors nature reserve, an Alresford town trail and a trip focusing on Jane Austen. Guests were greeted at a reception in Abbey House followed by a buffet supper.



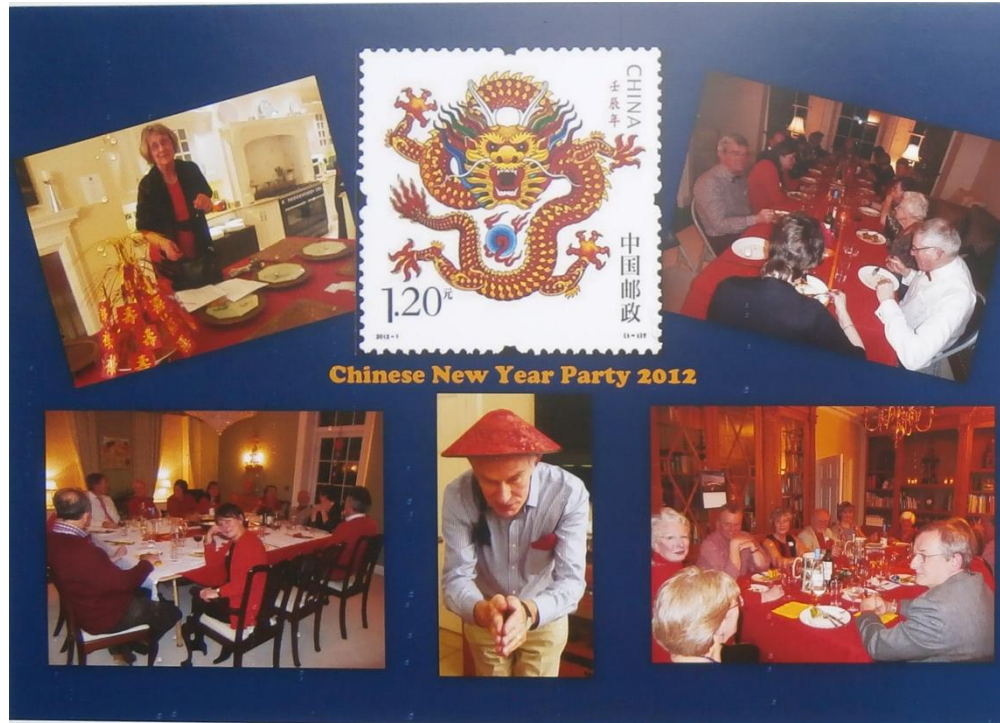
SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL
OF WINCHESTER AND DISTRICT



President: Laraine Marriott
50th Anniversary
Celebration Dinner
Alresford Golf Club, Alresford
Saturday, 21st April 2012



Chinese New Year 2012



This year we decided to cheer up the dreary month of January by celebrating the Chinese New Year and welcoming in the year of the Dragon. Catering was easy – we just ordered a take away for 50!

Table plans were drawn up according to Chinese star signs, although we all agreed that those who shared star signs did not have many personality traits in common.

Birthing in the Gambia, BIG 2013

The club mourned the loss of a loved and esteemed member when Margaret Lovell passed away. We have lost a very special friend who really valued her fellow Soroptimists as the sisters she never had. Quiet but stubborn, deep thinking and highly principled, Margaret was a true and committed Soroptimist of many years standing .

She was an enthusiastic supporter of the BIG project and the club set up the Margaret Lovell Memorial Fund to donate an ultrasound scanner in her name. The goal was to raise £10,000 for this. It has been installed in Brikama Hospital and will undoubtedly save lives. A brass plaque engraved with the words:

“Presented in memory of Margaret Lovell by her friends in Soroptimist International of Winchester and District and Southern England” has been attached to the machine.

Margaret was a great supporter of The Big Project and the Region is pleased that her name will live on as part of a project that is saving the lives of mothers and new-born babies in The Gambia.



Winchester Boundary Walk, International Women's Day 2013



IWD 2013 was organised by President Gill Steel. It was decided to walk the Winchester boundary line to mark the occasion.

It started off well at the President's home with the Mayor present, and although a cold murky start the day ended in sunshine.



Trinity Centre Winchester- ongoing

*You are invited to join us
at a
Silent Auction*

*This is a great opportunity to find a
diverse range of unusual gifts for
friends and family at the price you are
prepared to pay!*

*3rd December 2012
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
at
Trinity Winchester
Bradbury House, Durngate Place
Winchester SO23 8DX*

Proceeds to
♦
Trinity Winchester
♦
Emmaus Winchester
♦
Winchester Night Shelter
♦
Winchester Women's Refuge

*Let's help those who
help the homeless*

£3 entry to include a glass of wine and mince pie



A fundraising silent auction was held at Trinity Centre in Winchester, where counselling services, drop in centre and advice are given. The club also funded foodbags to be given to those in need of extra supplies.

We recently planted 3 apples trees in their newly designed garden.



Government Lobbying – Domestic Abuse Bill - ongoing

Specialist Domestic Violence Courts – **How special are they?**

Vera Baird DBE QC
Anita Lord
Rachel Lawson
Ruth Durham
Soroptimists from Northern England

Dame Vera Baird – the Victims’ Commissioner instigated an observation project to look into the effectiveness of DV courts. Clubs nationwide are attending Magistrate court hearings and submitting their findings for a report to be published later in 2022.

SI Winchester is working with SI Solent East locally on this.

Club members have written to their MPS continuously and addressed the House of Lords by writing to the peers requesting they support the amendments to the Domestic Abuse Bill – such as coercion and non-fatal strangulation.

Domestic Abuse Bill

Information relating to the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Bill in the House of Commons on 3 March 2020.

Winchester Women's Refuge



In order to help with their food budgets we organise Tesco food vouchers during the year. They also reciprocate by giving us the opportunity for speakers and meeting the women.



The club has supported the women and children here for many years. We send gifts for the children to wrap for their mothers at Christmas and for the women themselves. We also send Easter chocolates and toiletry bags for when they first arrive.



Winchester Women's Refuge picnic

The club has held an annual picnic for several years for the women and children of the Refuge. It is held at St Swithun's School with help from the students there and with their participation, is always a fun event.



Clanfield Observatory/Bombay Sapphire/Buffalo Farm

On a bitingly cold February night Winchester Soroptimists gathered for an appointment with members of the Clanfield Observatory. This collection of working telescopes is the largest amateur facility in Britain and our members were treated to a wonderfully clear view of the Moon, Jupiter and the Orion Nebula. The observatory boasts a 24 inch reflector, a 7 inch refractor and two Victorian telescopes of 5 and 41/2 inch aperture that are available for public observation.



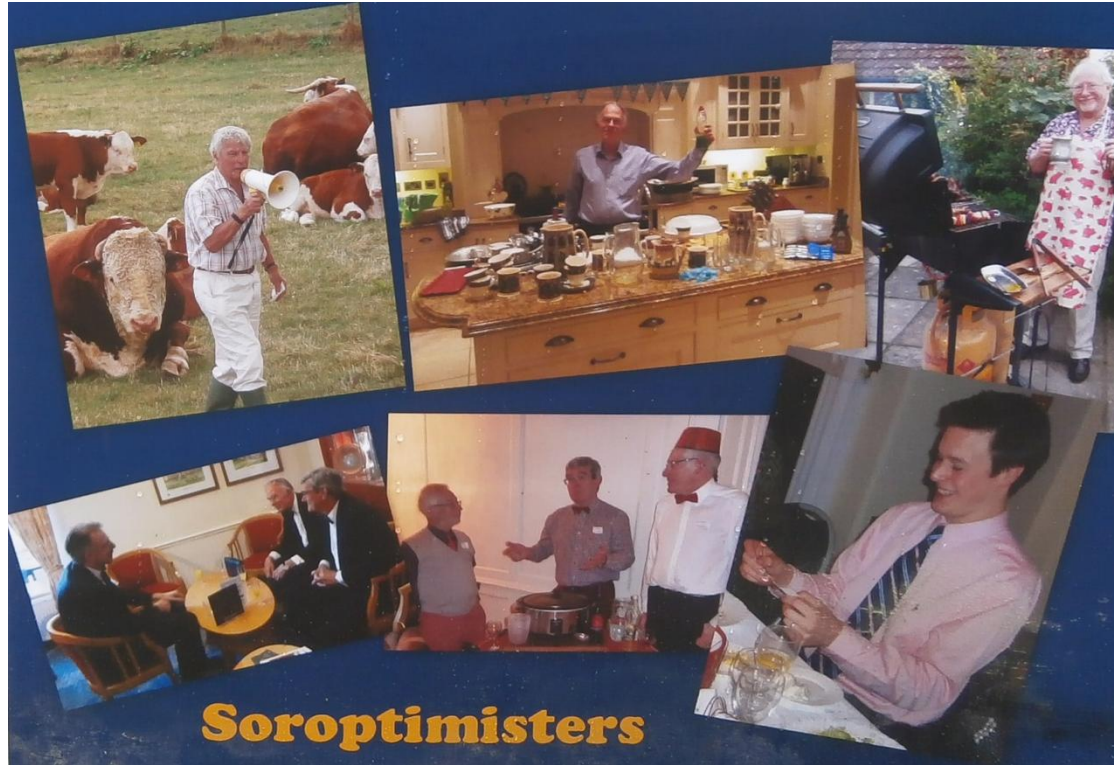
Visit to Buffalo Farm , Broughton

A treat for gin lovers took members and friends to the Bombay Sapphire Distillery on the beautiful River Test. It's waters mix perfectly with the botanicals to make the spirit. The beautiful dome shaped glasshouses are home to the flowers and plants used to infuse the gin.

Of course we had to try the gin cocktail prior to leaving...



Soroptimisters...



Soroptimisters are the husbands/partners/sons of members. Google the term and you'll usually find it prefixed by 'brave', 'stalwart', 'patient', 'untiring', 'perplexed' and many other mainly complimentary adjectives.

We thank you and celebrate you all!

Transforming Lives Together Conference 2017

At the Conference at the University of Winchester on Saturday 4 March, as part of the lead in to International Women's Day, women from across Hampshire, Wiltshire, Dorset and Surrey gathered at the University of Winchester heard how the lives of women and girls are being transformed locally, nationally and internationally.

The speakers were an experienced line-up:

Caroline Dineage, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Women, Equalities and Early Years and Hampshire MP

Amanda Dukes DVA Co-ordinator of the You Trust organisation

Jane Walker CEO of the Purple Communities Fund,

Chief Inspector Claire Taylor, Commander Winchester District, Hampshire Police

Pauline Monk from the Purple Teardrop campaign

Suzie Ford of Team Rubicon UK

Over the past two years Southern England region with less than 300 members had raised £40,000 and helped 4,400 women and girls.



The event was opened by University Vice-Chancellor Professor Joy Carter, who told delegates how the University's precursor institution was established to train teachers to teach the poor and that Winchester was the location of the first school for poor girls, in the building that is now The Bell public house in Cross Road.

Supporting other events



Hat check ladies for the Rotary Masked Ball raising funds for the Winchester Hospice



At the support stations for the Winchester half marathon



Games Maker – after the excitement of the London Olympic Games member Julie Blackwell was delighted to be selected as a Games Maker for the Paralympic Games. Julie supported the wheelchair fencing athletes competing at the London Excel Centre.

Previously Julie worked at Treloar's College in Alton in 2008 when some of the former students were involved in the Beijing Paralympics.

Murder Mystery evening fundraiser 2018



Women inspiring action,
transforming lives

Soroptimist
International

to solve
A Murder
Mystery

Winchester and District Soroptimists

invite you to join us on
Friday 6th April 2018

At Twyford Village Hall
at 6:30 for a 7 pm sharp start

accompanied by
a three course supper

Tickets £15

**Please bring your own wine*

Tickets available from 01962 882989 OR 01962 868320

In aid of the following charities;

- RHCH mobile breast scanner appeal
- Solar lights for study in the developing world
- Winchester Women's Refuge

To find out more about us see our website
<http://sigbi.org/winchester-and-district/>



We held a bespoke Murder Mystery evening as a fundraiser for 3 different charities:

- Mobile Breast Scanner
- Solar lights
- Winchester Women's Refuge

We were able to cater ourselves, with a cash bar and raffle and raised £1200 for our charities.



Teddy Bears Picnic- Brick Kiln Cottage 2019



Another of those enjoyable fundraisers, we got together for a Teddy Bear's picnic, a raffle and prize for the best Teddy Bear.

Held in a member's garden it was a lovely event.

Welcoming Southampton members and their projects

Sadly in 2019 SI Southampton club closed. However as in true Soroptimist style four of the members transferred to SI Winchester.

We were delighted to welcome Doreen Davies, Jean Edwardes, Tref Mitchell, Jenny Titcombe.



They brought with them several projects which SI Winchester has adopted.



Two Saints Hostel

Both Southampton, and Winchester SI Clubs have raised funds for solar lamps, and in the summer of 2021 held a successful fund-raising Garden Tea, which we are planning again during the 1st weekend in August (Saturday 6th with a sequel Tea on Sunday 7th).

The lamps enable young people to study in areas of the world where there is an absence of electricity. We support two programmes : Solar Aid working in Malawi, and the Little Sun Foundation working in Rwanda and Ethiopia.

These lamps support education, health, the environment and family economy in these countries where 90% have no access to electricity and use expensive Kerosene for cooking and light, causing chest problems, accidents and environmental pollution.

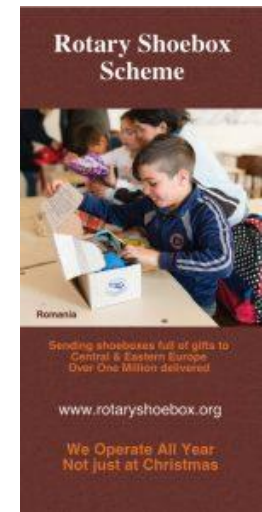


Solar Aid



Tools for Self Reliance

Rotary Shoebox



It was a popular tradition to exchange pennants/flags of visiting SI clubs.

Here are a few of those given to SI Winchester

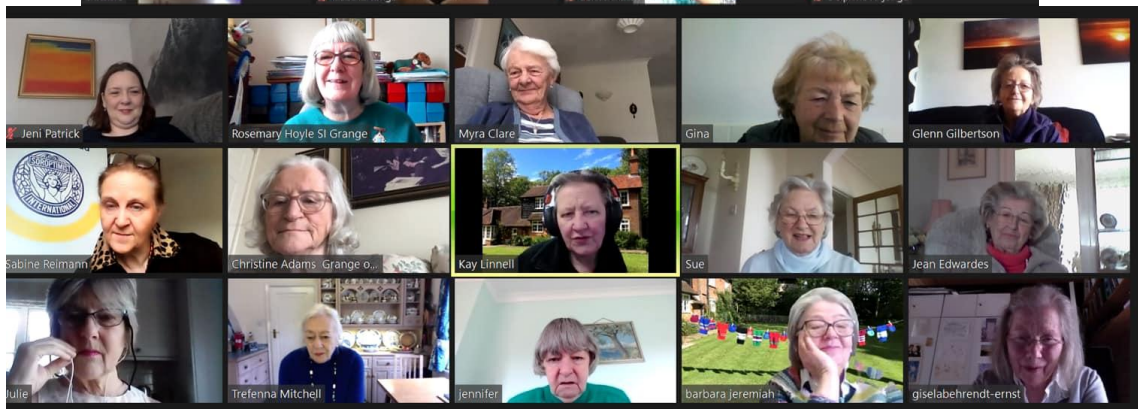


Friendship Links

Some years ago President Gill Steel of Winchester signed the friendship certificate for SI Cwmbran, whose President Marie Collie was a former member.



The club has had many Friendship Links over the years: SI Cwmbran, SI Grange over Sands, SI Preston, SI Kisumu, SI Royan, SI Charleroi, SI Stavanger.



We decided to streamline our communications and have three: SI Kisumu in Kenya, SI Essen in Germany and SI Grange over Sands UK and have had International Women's Day zooms with all of them.

Sign of the times...zoom meetings



Christmas greetings...Orange
the World...Break the
Bias...club meetings

A worrying Sign of the times...online bullying

Young girls online

The Internet has completely changed the way we operate. It has shrunk the world, and completely changed the way industries, the economy, entertainment, and communication work forever. You can't "just turn it off" and pretend that what happens online isn't real, because it *is real*.

For Teenage girls this is the world they have grown up in and it isn't that they are dedicating themselves to their smart phones and social media *instead of living their lives*. It's that social media is their preferred tool for communicating, sharing, and all the other things teens do as they grow into young adults.

This new world is where dangers exist, and where parents can't always protect their young daughters...

Our project team has created the online bullying project to discover the real statistics of this modern day terror by creating a survey for youngsters to complete online and anonymously.



Pillowcase Dresses and knitted baby sets

A long standing project of our textile group and work with local schools. Over the last few years we have worked with Churchers, Westgate , St Swithuns, Henry Beaufort, Eggars, Test Valley, Mountbatten and Girl Guides.

We have used our Soroptimist links to send the dresses and knitted sets to where they are needed, EduUKaid in Tanzania, and SI Banjul in the Gambia.

Recently members packed up the supplies ready to go to the Gambia and SI Banjul.

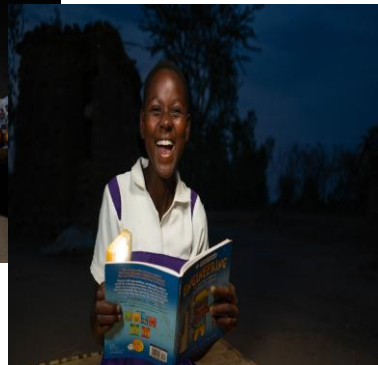
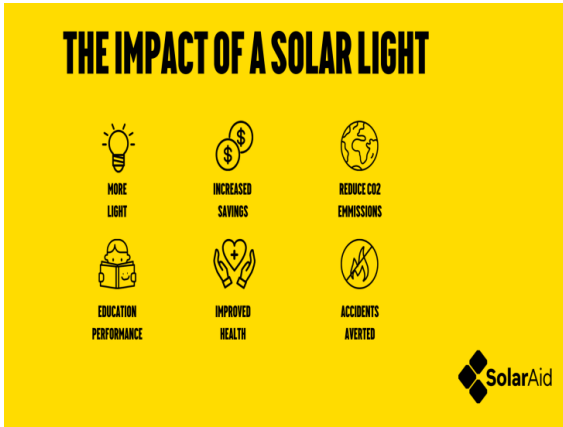


International Solar Projects – 2018 ongoing

We recently had a talk from Solar Aid, one of the solar projects we support. The impact of a solar light on the lives of those in poor developing countries without electricity is beyond compare.

Light gives access to evening activities – education, medicinal, working and above all improves the lives of those accessing it. There are several schemes and to access a solar light and in buying it rather than being given it, the light has a value and is looked after.

Solar Aid works in Malawi and Uganda. We also support the Little Sun Foundation which works in similar ways. Their products differ slightly in design from those of Solar Aid.



Membership fun in Rick Stein coffee shop with the Mayor...



Are you

- a woman living or working locally?
- interested in meeting like-minded women?

Would you

- like to help with projects making a difference to women's lives?
- Do you care about issues that impact on women's lives?

JOIN US

FOR COFFEE AND CAKE
AT RICK STEIN'S RESTAURANT,
HIGH STREET, WINCHESTER

THURSDAY 12TH OCTOBER
9.30AM - 11.30 AM
...to find our more

**Women inspiring action
transforming lives**





Local Winchester event fundraising and awareness...from the Hat Fair...to car boot sales



SI Winchester members 2022 - 2023

