



# Soroptimist Circular

Autumn 2010

Issue 3

## SI Sunderland

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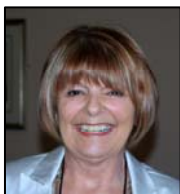
### Forthcoming events :

- ◆ Newcastle lunch, 6.10.10. Centre for Life. £21
- ◆ Next business meeting, Wed 13.10.10, Eauzone Sunderland.
- ◆ South Shields dinner, 15.10.10. Sth Shields Golf Club. £20
- ◆ President's fund-raising night at Hilary Clavering's home, 15.10.10. £10
- ◆ Tynemouth & Whitley Bay Auction, 17.10.10.
- ◆ Cancer Research coffee morning, Greyhound Stadium, East Boldon, 20.10.10. Free.
- ◆ Christmas shopping night for the elderly, 3.12.10. The Bridges, Sunderland.
- ◆ Christmas meal. 7pm, 8.12.10. Gusto Vero, Sunderland. £18.95

a global voice  
for women

Soroptimist  International

### WELCOME MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT PAT



I am now halfway through my Presidential year and, looking back, it has been exciting and enlightening. Our summer outing to Chesters Grove Garden Centre, with buffet and a planting demonstration, was a great success. Our guest speakers so far have represented my chosen charities, Hope4Kidz and the Mines Advisory Group (MAG), and money raised this year will be donated to them.

I have also been attending Regional Meetings and club lunches so, all in all, a busy time of fund-raising, service and friendship which I look forward to sharing with you over the next six months.

### LETTING THE SUN SHINE IN

President Pat and member, Anne Brewis, had a great day helping count up the money raised by local radio station, SunFM, during their charity fund-raising appeal for Wearside Charity, Hope4Kids, to help youngsters who are struggling with long-term illness, disability



poverty or abuse. "It was great to get involved in supporting Hope4Kids which is one of my charities this year", said President Pat. "We also got several mentions for SI Sunderland on SunFM during the day and time to visit the recording studio."

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### MANCHESTER CONFERENCE

Remember the SIGBI Federation Conference will be held in Manchester on 21-23 October, 2010. More information on Conference issues and voting will be provided at the next Business Meeting at 7.30pm, 13th October, at Eauzone.



### SUPPORTING FARMERS IN PAKISTAN

The recent floods in Pakistan have killed 1600, affected more than 14 million people and the devastation is immense.

Soroptimist International Great Britain and Ireland has reacted quickly by sending a donation to the Red Cross, and SI Sunderland is sending an additional donation direct to local farmers "Mountain Fruits" (who supply Fulwell Mill with almonds and apricots) via ethical investment co-operative, Shared Interest, with help from member, Patricia Alexander.



### CALIFORNIA DREAMING!

We're delighted to renew our friendship links with SI San Diego in California! The Club has 43 members and will be celebrating their 80th anniversary in 2011.

Jennifer Keller, Liaison Officer, sends greetings to SI Sunderland and invites us to think how both clubs can work together on a future programme action project!



### YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOU!

Do you enjoy being part of SI Sunderland? Would you like to get involved in making things happen?



We are appealing to members to really show their support for the Club and volunteer as President next year. Join President Pat and Vice President, Tania Le Marinel, to help lead an exciting programme of activities and fund-raising for 2011-12.

SI Sunderland is a great club - so please get involved and make it even better for all of us! For an informal chat about opportunities, please call President Pat on 0191 584 0752 .

### CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Yes, it's that time of year again and our members are already busy planning that long-anticipated acting extravaganza, the Club's Christmas pantomime and dinner! Watch out for some surprise celebrity acting debuts! We have the X-Factor!



..... ACTION ..... AWARENESS ..... ADVOCACY .....

## A vibrant, dynamic organisation for today's modern woman!

### NEW MEMBERS WANTED!

Do you feel that your circle of friends is too insular?

Would you like to meet women from different walks of life?



Are you keen to put something back into your local community but you're unsure where to start?

Help women and girls across the world by increasing your knowledge of human rights issues such as fair trade, child labour and human trafficking.

Soroptimist International offers just what you're looking for!

[www.soroptimist-gbi.org](http://www.soroptimist-gbi.org)

### MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT EVENING

Membership of women's groups across the UK is ageing and declining in numbers – we already know that 60% of Soroptimist International members in the North East are over 60 years of age - so we're keen to attract new members.

All our members are dynamic, committed women who work hard to raise money for our charities, and recruiting new members is a vital necessity for SI Sunderland and all clubs. This has spurred Cheryl Finlay, Membership Officer, to work even harder to make the Membership Recruitment Evening in March 2011 as interactive, fun and successful as possible in a **joint effort** to inspire many new members.

Margaret Clark, Regional Membership and Development Officer, reports that regional membership is currently sitting at 407 and a target of 420 has been set.

**Come on SI Sunderland, let's contribute towards that target!!**



A small sub-committee will help Cheryl plan the membership evening - Pat Howe, Sumera Rizwani, Tania Le Marinel and, last but not least, Margaret Clark. After meeting Margaret at the Hexham Regional Meeting, Cheryl has established a very positive link via email and phone and when Margaret heard about the meeting, she asked if she could come along. "Of course you can!" Cheryl replied and is delighted that Margaret will join them. "I'm getting really excited about our recruitment plans. All I ask of our SI Sunderland ladies is to **"please start thinking about the guests you plan to invite!"** says Cheryl. **More details to follow.....in the next newsletter!**



Our new banner is a great success and other clubs across the Northern Region are now using our design (we're very flattered!).

### PROGRAMME ACTION STUDY DAY, READING

Members Carol Burn and Tania Le Marinel joined around 200 delegates from over 100 clubs in the UK to attend a Study Day in July organised by the UK Programme Action Committee.

A full and varied agenda of workshops and presentations included the key issues of Trafficking and the Sex Trade, Forced Marriages, Female Genital Mutilation, Elder Abuse and the compilation and understanding of Life Story Books for the elderly.

The last session of the day centred on domestic violence. On average, women in domestic violence relationships contact 11 agencies before they receive the help they need, and a dramatic 45-minute play 'Lady in Red' was performed by The Certain Curtain

Theatre Company (shortlisted for the Amnesty International Freedom of Expression Award in 2005).

With a gripping dialogue and plot, the audience accompanied 'Rose' on her traumatic journey as she finds the courage to leave an abusive relationship. As Rose so poignantly says, the question is not : "Why doesn't she leave"? The right question is: "Why doesn't he stop"?

The after-show discussion allowed Soroptimists to question the barriers women experience through domestic violence. Delegates agreed the Study Day had provided an excellent forum for discussion to combat the global strife that women face and will help Soroptimists to take further action in their fight for the pursuit of equality for women.



### How to get in touch

S.I. Sunderland meets at 7.30pm on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month at Eauzone in Sunderland. We're a vibrant, growing club with members of all ages and skills so please do come along and meet us. As 'soror' means sister and 'optimist' means best – we really are the best of women! Please contact Cheryl, Membership Officer on 0191 567 1514 or email us for more information at [soroptimistsunderland@googlemail.com](mailto:soroptimistsunderland@googlemail.com)



### Remember to support World Mental Health Day on October 10, 2010

#### OH COME ALL YE FAITHFUL!

Our team of willing choristers are already preparing for their annual performance of Christmas carols at Falstone Manor Nursing Home on Saturday, 11th December, 2010. Contact Joan Downs to get involved!



#### TABLE TOP SALE

Our next table top sale will be held at Whitburn Church Hall from 2-4pm on Saturday, 13th November, 2010. As usual, members are asked to collect items to sell. Fun, frivolity and afternoon tea will be enjoyed by everyone who attends! Volunteers for the day should contact Joan Downs for more information.

We're on the web! Find us at [www.soroptimistinternational-sunderland.org.uk](http://www.soroptimistinternational-sunderland.org.uk)