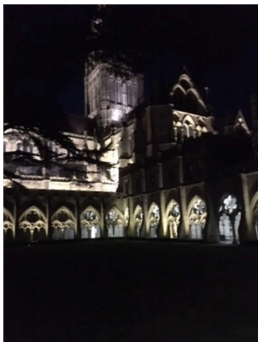


August/September/October 2019

A reminder – it's your newsletter so please think about promoting events and sharing all our worthwhile activities.



Salisbury Charter 3rd August

Alexis, Danny and Suzette attended the event along with many ex-presidents and SIGBI officials which took place in Salisbury Cathedral. A lovely venue and a splendid Charter Occasion.

-oOo-

August Summer Lunch

25th August

Everyone that attended the Summer Lunch had a great time and really appreciated the massive effort that Brenda and her husband had made in putting up tables, gazebos, parasols, casual seating and cloths and flowers on the tables etc. The weather was great and there was plenty of food and drink. Members brought all the food, of which there was plenty and drinks were also provided. More than 25 people attended including Soroptimisters and ex-members. A table sale (ex bring and buy objects) raised £55. Brenda received a bouquet of flowers and Danny thanked her earlier that morning.

Thank you again Brenda & Paul.



-oOo-

Friendship Weekend – 13th – 15th September

In Musterland Sud (Ludinghausen)



Pic 1. Everyone together on Saturday night

Pic 2. Interesting discussions

Pic 3. Munster Church

Pic 4. Ludinghausen Castle

Two members of SI Weybridge, Danny and Alexis, attended the Friendship Weekend hosted by MunsterlandSud in Germany. There were also members of clubs Kristiansand (Norway), Silkeborg (Denmark) and Almelo (Netherlands).

It was a wonderful weekend of friendship and interesting visits and events. The theme of the weekend was Cittaslow. Ludinghausen where we met, is a member of the Cittaslow movement. The movement started in Italy as a reaction to fast food. It has developed into a worldwide network of small cities (less than 50,000 people) with an emphasis on local businesses and products and encourages community activities. We had a presentation on what Ludinghausen was doing and it included lots of local events including a mass picnic.

Each of the clubs gave presentations on their projects, which were very wide ranging – covering water projects, an education project in Senegal, mentoring of girl refugees and a city farm. Alexis explained our STEM project, which provoked a lot of interest.

We also visited a turkey farm and had a talk from a member of the women farmers association. The fascinating part of the farm was the bio fuel plant. This used the turkey and pig waste from the farm with some maize they grew to create electricity and heat. The electricity went into the grid and the heat was used to keep the turkeys and the people warm.

There was a choice of visits over the two days. Danny visited the newly restored moated castle in Ludinghausen whilst Alexis visited the studio of a Soroptimist sculptor and her husband – a poet and painter. Unfortunately she was tempted and ended up bringing home a very quirky picture. On the visit to Munster – a lovely old town, very Dutch in appearance, Danny had a tour of the museum of art and culture and Alexis toured the city and Cathedral.

We had lovely home based dinners in small groups on the Friday evening and a dinner all together on the Saturday. This included some live music and a lot of talking. - A very positive, friendly few days meeting old friends and making new ones.

Alexis

-oOo-

Bridge Afternoon

Wednesday 9th October at Pyrford



This event was a jointly run by SI Woking and us. There were 18 tables of 4 players each, which was a very good number, paying £8 a head. All the sandwiches and cakes were supplied by Woking club members and there was a very good raffle which raised £300. There were 10 club members working, 7 from Woking and Danny, Ann M and Jeannie. The players played for over an hour and where then served their sandwiches, cakes and tea or coffee and then continued to play. The overall winner, we are very proud to say, was our very own Dee. Well done.



-oOo-



SIGBI Conference Bournemouth

24th – 26th October 2019



Always SPARKLE



Two members (Danny and Alexis) attended the 85th SIGBI Conference in Bournemouth. It was once again an interesting, friendly and motivating event. An opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones in a positive and enthusiastic atmosphere.

There were a number of wonderful speakers. The highlight was probably Katy a 15 year old who had suffered anxiety and depression but was now well and happy after attending NHS counselling . She had undertaken a trip to Zambia with Toilet Twinning, to meet a local 15 year old whose anxiety and stress was caused by having no toilet facilities. She had seen the installation of toilets and the happiness this had brought to the community. In appreciation of her speech and bravery a 'chuck in the bucket' collection was made and over £1100 was raised for Toilet Twinning – which could provide 5 school toilet blocks.

Other speakers covered a wide variety of topics. These included a neuroscientist who made her topic clear and exciting. A successful rally driver and reluctant mountain climber who talked about mental toughness based on her own experience and a survivor of FGM who talked about her work helping other survivors with the mental traumas they suffer. The token male speaker spoke about inspiring people to thrive.

There was a hustings for the SI Presidency with two candidates. We will need to discuss who we will vote for at a club meeting.

The AGM proved interesting and at times quite exciting. Many heartfelt views were presented for and against some of the motions. In the end a way forward was found with the motions as amended gaining very high percentages of support. We will now have a smaller board of 7 Directors in 2020, although the president and president elect will serve one year terms as at present. The constitutional documents are now in line with the requirements of our charitable status and there will be an annual increase in membership fees in line with inflation.

More good news, we passed our target and raised over £160k for the Meru Garden Project and the international project – Women, Water, Leadership - has raised over £400,000 and is doing wonderful work in a number of countries across the federations. A presentation was also given of the new SIGBI project supporting rescued girls in Nepal, a worthwhile project that will really change girls' lives.



Danny and Alexis trying out a pink Tuk Tuk at the Bournemouth Conference

Alexis

-oOo-

Induction of new member Ann

Thursday 17th October 2019



It's a pleasure to welcome Ann who was formally inducted as a member of Soroptimist International of Weybridge and District at the supper meeting.

Ann is truly an international lady. She was born in London but went to school in Antigua. Her Father was from Dominica and her Mother was from Anguilla. Anne and her husband own a house in Anguilla and spend the UK winter months in the sunshine in Anguilla where Ann has many family members as well as siblings in various parts of the world. Anne met her husband in London where she was working for Pan Am. They have a daughter who lives locally.

Ann has been very involved with the local community supporting many organizations in particular the Oatlands Village Fayre each year.

Welcome Ann.

Dorothy

-oOo-

Dates for your diary

Supper Meeting – 21st November

Festive Lunch at Brooklands College, Weybridge

Friday 13th December – Please send your menu choices and remittance to Ann Maloney by 6th December

Regional PAC Meeting –

Sunday 17th November

Regional AGM –

Saturday 23rd November, Alton House Hotel

STEM - Thursday 9th July 2020

SI Centenary – 1st/3rd October 2021

San Francisco, California

-oOo-

Always SPARKLE

