

Soroptimist International
*Women inspiring action,
transforming lives*



WHO ARE WE? WHAT DO WE DO?

We care about women and try to give them the chance of a better life.

Soroptimist clubs in the North West are working with our project partner Child.org, on the Meru Women's Garden Project, this project will support some of the poorest women-led households in Kenya, and focus on providing earning and learning opportunities to women and girls, enabling them to cultivate their plots of land, improving their lives and prospects for a better future.

We help to feed starving children and give them an education.

Many of you will know that our President Annemarie's charity for her year of office is Mary's Meals. At our recent business meeting we watched a video on the progress of this work – the presenter told how in 2002 when he asked a 14 year old boy what were his ambitions, (a question so many of us ask our youth on numerous occasions), his reply was "not to feel hungry every day and to have an education". This was the start of Mary's Meals, the video showed an interview with this young man today, he is well and happy although he was too late to access the education, but was proud to say that his younger siblings had benefitted enormously from this project, his words - "you can't think when you are hungry". In 2002, 200 children were given a daily meal at school, in 2004 - 20,000, in 2006, - 211,000, today over 1 million children are being fed and given the chance of education.

But there is still a long way to go as presently there are 59 million children out of school worldwide. We saw women who joyfully carried sacks of grain weighing 20 kg each, one woman had three of these on her head, they were pleased to carry these over a mile up a steep mountain path to their village as they thought their inaccessibility would deny them this help.

It costs just £12.20 to feed a child for a year, since the start of Annemarie's year in March the Garstang club has raised enough money to **feed over forty children for the whole of a school year.**

We value the friendship of others.

Two weeks ago three Garstang members visited the Fylde Soroptimist Club for their Friendship evening and had a brilliant time learning unexpected skills as we were treated to a demonstration of drumming! Their guests explained the history of the wide variety and types of drums which they had brought with them originating from Africa and Egypt these were beautifully made and inlaid with mother of pearl and different woods. During the evening everybody was encouraged to 'have a go' with some surprising and wonderful results!! The money raised through a raffle will go to the Meru Women's Garden Project.



Update on our Back Pack project: We are still working hard on this very worthwhile project with many friends and fellow Garstonians helping us, thank you for using our drop off point at the Mustard Seed Café. We still need your old school back packs please, also the items that are most difficult to source are boys' and girls' shorts and skirts ages 5 -13. Please remember us when you do that wardrobe clear out.

If you like the sound of the work we do and would like to help, why not come and join us at one of our meetings we would love to meet you.

We meet twice a month at the Garstang Hotel and Golf Club. 7.30pm, on the second and fourth Wednesday, interested ladies and new members are always very welcome.

www.sigarstang.org.uk

www.facebook.com/SoroptimistsGarstang

www.twitter.com/GarstangSoropt

Muriel Burnham-Airey

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Membership Co-ordinator

Mustard Seed Opening Times

Tuesday 10-12noon

Thursday 10-2.00pm.

Saturday 10- 12 noon.

Mustard Seed Café, Park Hill Road (Opposite the Wheat Sheaf Pub) they are open Tuesday 10.00am to 12noon Thurs. 10.00am to 2.00pm. Saturday 10.00am to 12noon