



Garstang Soroptimists

*Women inspiring action,
transforming lives*

International Women's Day – as planned, at our meeting on March 8th members raised £160.00 for The Marie Curie Daffodil Campaign with our raffle, home baked buns, and the sale of knitted daffodils.

Amazing Generosity

After one of their young teachers read about it in the Focus magazine, the pupils of St Francis School Goosnargh have collected an **amazing 29 backpacks** for Garstang Soroptimists' Backpack Project, and filled many of them with essential school items, in just half a term! They also donated 3 large bags of clothes to help fill the bags. Their response was so enthusiastic that their donations filled the whole of the back of the car when their teacher brought them to us.

It is a simple way of helping children from poor families in countries like Malawi and Liberia get to school. Very often the parents cannot afford to buy basic things like pens and notebooks or even suitable clothes for their children to wear to school, and so their children miss out on school and the education that can help them escape from poverty when they grow up. The Backpack Project is linked to a project called Mary's Meals, which provides a daily meal in a place of learning to attract chronically poor children into the classroom, where they receive an education and essential nutrition.

We are so fortunate that our children have a good education as a right, and this is a way in which the pupils of St. Francis school have now helped other children have the same opportunity, providing them with a way out of poverty.

March also kept us 'backpack busy' as we collected more generous donations from our friendly drop off spot at the Mustard Seed Café – thank you helping me load my car!

The end is in sight!

President Annemarie's year has just four more weeks to go. What a year it's been; focusing on her chosen charity of Mary's Meals and going into over-drive with the Backpack Project she has been more than a little busy! I will be giving you the final total of children who we have raised money to feed in next month's Focus. Mary's Meals is such a worthwhile charity; 93% of all money raised goes to the actual cost of meals, only 7% is spent on administration costs. At our AGM members will be taking the little boxes that Annemarie gave each of us to pop small donations in when we had been out and enjoyed a particularly nice meal, just as a little appreciation of our life style.

Visitors welcome

During February and March we have welcomed five visitors to our meetings, it is always a pleasure to meet ladies who are interested in our work and think they might like to join us.

Soroptimists all over this, and many other countries, work hard to improve the lives of those less fortunate than us. Why don't you join this boundless network? ***It could be the best thing you've ever done!***

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 from throughout the Over Wyre and Garstang district are always very welcome. Please contact me to have a chat and/or arrange a visit.

Muriel Burnham-Airey
01995 606604
Membership Co-ordinator

Take a look at what we do:

www.sigarstang.org.uk

www.facebook.com/SoroptimistsGarstang

www.twitter.com/GarstangSoropt

Please drop off your used Back Packs at- The Mustard Seed Café, Park Hill Road (Opposite the Wheat Sheaf Pub) they are open Thursday, Friday, and Saturday 10.00am to 2.00pm.