

The Circler



WINTER EDITION **2006** ISSN 1357-7913



Mandy NALC's 'Madam Butterfly' spreads her wings!

On Saturday 30th September, at the Hilton Hotel, Coventry.

A great band provided some fantastic dance numbers.

There was friendship and fine food perfect for a President's

Ball, not to mention the special guest appearance from Michael

Portillo, patron of DebRA, Mandy's chosen charity.



**SPREAD YOUR WINGS AND
SHARE THE BEAUTY OF CIRCLE**

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:
ERICA DIVES INTO VICE CHAIR!
LCI NETHERLANDS
ARMED WITH 70 YEARS OF CIRCLING



Like all Presidents before me, I have been out and about up and down the country being wined and dined and in some cases soaked (Area 20) and all the time I receive a warm circle welcome, tremendous hospitality and generosity - Thank you all.

The National Exec team - fondly known as the butterfly babes have been quietly (well most of them) working away, making a difference to NALC and having some fun. I can confirm that there is certainly no 1 in our team. By the time you read this we will have celebrated our 70th Charter and had our first council meeting and you will have heard in more detail about the things we have been up to.

Kayla has been organising promotional leaflets, Michelle has been updating our web site, and Lynda has sorted out the IT at HQ - now that's a miracle! Catherine has been organising 4 clubs as well as organising the exec, Gill is sorting out the VAT (boring but necessary) and Rhian - well she's just been Rhi, there when I have needed support

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So Far So Good

My motto this year is to spread your wings and the Anthony Nolan Trophy will be awarded to the Circler who has tried something different and in doing so made a difference. I look forward to hearing your stories. Tracey Wilkinson is an example to us all, she flew across to Holland with not a care in the world, seized her opportunity and came back as LCI President. I'm sure you are all proud of her and you can find out more about the LCI conference in the magazine.

In July next year we will be spreading our wings and moving to Marchesi House, I don't think we realised what a big job it was until we documented our plans in July - there is still a lot to do and we will be updating the website with our progress.

My sponsored car finally arrived in July and now sports the butterfly, so I can spread my wings and spread the word about Circle and my charity DebRA. I have received a number of donations from Circles, Tables and individuals - thank you all the money will really make a difference and hopefully in our lifetime too. Even my 8 year old daughter Ellie has been inspired to raise funds and she and her friends planned for a month a garden sale - she made butterfly cakes (with a little help from me of course), sorted out toys books and videos and stood for 3 hours in the garden selling. She may have only made £22.50 but I'm still proud that she has recognised the importance of helping those less fortunate than herself.

I've also been spreading my wings and working with Table - Yes, I was lady Godiva at the National Sporting Weekend, but no I didn't take my clothes off! However the National Exec have decided to 'bare all' and produce a charity Christmas card - calendar girl style - well if the WI can do it why can't we! It has all been done in the best possible taste and we hope that we can sell them all and make some more money for DebRA.

Many thanks to Michelle for all her hard work in putting this magazine together, I know it's not easy - please help her by providing articles.

The butterfly signifies new life and is also a symbol of hope - I hope that this year we will all spread our wings, share the beauty of circle so that we can fly on for another 70 years.

Yours in friendship

Mandy
National President 2006/07

Do you know anyone who would like to be kept in touch with Circle activities (and gossip)....

If you are leaving Circle, but would like to keep in touch....Why not place an order for the next issue of The Circler.

Send your name, address and membership number together with £2 (incl. Postage) to:

NALC - HQ Office
Provincial House, Cooke Street, Keighley, W. Yorkshire, BD21 3NN (No receipt will be sent unless s.a.e enclosed)

Show your friends the magazine, bring them along to the meeting, share with them your circle fun!

Please keep your articles coming to me it's great to receive emails and pictures - our next copy date for the Conference Edition 2007 is 14th February.

Keep spreading your wings and the circle word to everyone - and I know that we will fly into the next 70 years!

Yours in friendship,

Michelle Taylor

National Vice President 2006-2007



Michelle Taylor

SEAFORD & NEWHAVEN DARED TO DROP

Four keen members of Seaford & Newhaven ladies circle (729) abseiled down Peacehaven Cliffs on 12th August. Despite threatening rain and wind they all participated in the locally organised charity drop. Impressively between the four members they managed to raise over £500 in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support and Help a Local Child. Well done Kate Fuller, Wendy Fortune, Cath Biggs & Vicky Phillipson.



Kate Fuller- SNLC Chairman

ERICA IS DIVING INTO VICE CHAIR

I decided to take upon the challenge - throw yourself from a plane to raise money sounds like a good idea. My original goal was to raise £500 but, I easily reached this target. With the support from my own circle, Round Table, friends and family I managed to raise almost £1,000 for the National Autistic Society.

The actual buzz of doing the jump is something else, I wouldn't say I wasn't worried or nervous about it, I would be lying if I said I was but, the excitement for doing it kicks in. At 15,000 feet it's too late to turn back, the adrenaline is pumping and I am hanging on the side of the door waiting to jump - I wanted to go, the excitement of such a challenging feat before me was too much!

The free-fall was very exciting but over too quickly, I was falling at a speed of 120mph and it was very noisy but, when the parachute opened it went quiet and calm - a completely different experience.

When I landed I was on such a high I really wanted to get back in the plane and do it all again.

It's a great way for any circle who has one or more daring members who would be willing to get up there and do it to raise money - the sponsorship was brilliant, people wanted to give you something mainly because they couldn't even consider doing it themselves

Erica Kirkham Area 37



MIDLAND & WALES LUNCH SAX IN THE CITY

Congratulations to a job well done by the MWRL committee, the Midland and Wales Regional Luncheon hosted by Area 4 was definitely a complete success.

It was a long year of a lot of hard work but I can honestly say that everyone on the committee owned it and it all paid off. We received many letters, emails and texts of thanks for a simply brilliant day. I really feel that this event brought Area 4 closer together, cementing friendships across the Area.

The entertainment, organised by Chris Foley went down a storm, with many Ladies asking for their details. A great day was had by all followed by a trip into town afterward for a Chinese.

Can I thank all the half-naked Tablers that sold raffle tickets on the day; they raised approximately £1000 for Breast friends and Rhian's charity, CF. A very special thank you to Richard Halsted who stole the show as our MC in his navy whites.

Kayla Norman Area 4



Mountains of Swiss Chocolate...Really

On Tuesday 1 August at a Swiss night organised by Katia, Middlesbrough Chair, the weather held out and we enjoyed a Swiss meal, cooked by Katia. We were split into two teams and tasked with completing a quiz, all about Switzerland. A few drinks later, the chocolate game commenced. Sue Marsh had the gold touch for rolling a six and I believe devoured most of the Swiss chocolate!

Just before I had to leave, Katia announced that Jane would like to join circle.... :-) ... then Kathryn said she would like to join followed by Janette and Joanne. Four new members in one evening. What a great achievement Middlesbrough! And a warm welcome to the new girls

Sue Umpleby Area 1



Welcome

So, here's the winter edition, time certainly flies when you're having fun!

Hope you like reading this edition - yes it's colour!

We heard your opinions and have managed to organise the second edition of circler as the same specification of the Conference edition - it's more effective and it's what YOU want!

The articles show that you are all having lots of fun and, that's what we are about, remember Mandy's mission if everyone bought a friend to circle we would double in size!

Armed with 70 years of Circling -and still having fun!

What a wonderful day, renewing old friendships and making new.

706 Past, Present and Future Circlers gathered together to celebrate 70 years of circling.

Oh boy! How we partied, in the Armouries Hall in Leeds on Saturday the 16th September, starting the day with the opportunity to dabble in the chocolate fountains.

Representatives from the 4 Clubs, NALC, RTBI, Tangent and 41 Club, our own International President and Luncheon Chairman 'T', together with guest speaker Graham Walton, father of the sextuplets headed the top table. Life Honorary Member, and Past President 1960/1961 - Joan Craven lit the candle of friendship. 'Gerry', who kept the day lively and buzzing, provided entertainment.

It may be another ten years before such a grand gathering takes place again on this scale again, so celebrating in style was the order of the day.

*We drank a toast to the good times
We drank to happy things
We all said congratulations
To whatever the future may bring
We drank a toast to friendship
And all the things we've mastered
We opened up the champagne
So, some ladies were suitably
'plastered'*



Here are some of the comments received in cards of thanks by those attending:

Here are some of the comments received in cards of thanks by those attending:

'All the hard work has been rewarded' Chris Hemsley Past National Sales 1999/2000

'Attention to detail paid off' - Sue Jaylor PNP

'She found if she administered correctly, evening primrose oil had a remarkably calming effect especially mixed with Gin'

'If one of these events could be held on a daily basis we would all be looking at a very bright future' National President 41 Club



The reception was wonderful - chocolate fountains a brilliant idea, great that there were no formal breaks, the meal was long and leisurely and gave plenty of time to meet and chat with friends - Brenda Garside

Great day and memorable, only sorry I had to leave to catch my train before the end, lovely presents and my rose is healthy, and long may it remain so as I don't want the friendship to die - Beth Allen Past Tangent President 2000/2001.

Tracey Wilkinson, Platinum Lunch Committee Chairman

Car Train and Plane to LEEDS



Eight of us travelled from Area One to the 70th birthday celebration of Ladies Circle. We met at Darlington railway station and caught the 10:11 train to Leeds. Thanks to Jane and Sarah for providing the bubbly and Belgium chocolates on the way down. We could not persuade the 'conductor' to let us into first class, so we partied in the corridor instead!



Shortly after 19:00, carrying our presents of a rose bush, 70th anniversary pin, engraved champagne flute and beautiful bracelet. The Hartlepool girls had also acquired monkey masks, I wonder who was responsible for that! It was an amazing experience, over 700 women in one room, cementing old friendships and making new friends as well.

Sue Umpleby Area 1

Torquay & Bideford LC take to the air...

Air hostesses are one thing, but when it comes to gaining the Captain's favour Torquay and Bideford Circlers had the head for heights on the way to the 70th Anniversary lunch in Leeds.

With 24 Circlers on board, all in blue and pink circle t-shirts the Captain and crew could not miss us. We had a special welcome during the flight and were joined on the tarmac in Leeds for a photo opportunity.

Our circle of friendship continues as Fly Be kindly let us transport all 24 rose bushes back to Devon!

Helen Addison Area 19



International Ladies Circle Day February 10th 2006

LCI - Netherlands



We went to Alkmaar for what we thought was going to be a normal International Conference - little did we know that GB&I would have to come to the rescue with Area 3's very own Tracy Wilkinson stepping in to take the reins of International President.

As always lots to discuss, conference bids in place. The winner of the conference bid 2009 was India - so Bangalore here we come.

The new international Vice President elected was Kathleen Messina Flynn from Malta and the new Web lady elected was Elsem M. Stork Høiem from Norway. You will be pleased to hear that the International Charity for Nepal Orphanage is going extremely well.

As always these Circle weekends are away are great fun - next year it is Estonia, the website has full details for booking but, why wait till then try a Mid Term Meeting in Austria next January!

Also, don't forget National Ladies Circle Day to be celebrated on February 11th - this date was set at Alkmaar to encourage all circlers to acknowledge LCI and of course NALC locally and nationally - see what you can do to raise the profile of NALC on the 11th February!



Wedding BELLES in TURRIFF!



Ever since our "Wedding Night" meeting back in April, there had been a lot of talk about all these ladies appearing at the Fife Arms Hotel in Turriff dressed in their full wedding attire. Of course, I had to be the one who could no longer squeeze into my "tiny" wedding dress, but I got into the spirit of things by wearing my shoes, garter, headdress and veil instead - the only things which still fitted me! They looked quite nice with the Chairman's chain anyway!

The story which appeared in "Take a Break" had to be taken with a rather large pinch of salt! With the programme having been set up a year before I took over as Chair, the Wedding Night was really all down to the Past-Chairman, Jill McCaw, and her programme committee headed by Morag Daley. I felt rather guilty at the way "Take a Break" made me take all the glory for it, but we all decided it was worth letting them say what they wanted and twist the truth a little if they were giving us £400 for DEBRA in return!

**Audrey Wilson
Woking LC Chairman,
District 1053**

INTERNATIONAL CIRCLE OF FRIENDS!

The daughter of the National President of France stayed with the Holden family for a week during August. Celine had a busy week, we took her to Wisley Flower Show as she had a love of cactus plants!! Steph my eldest took her shopping and then on to see Pirates of the Caribbean as they both shared a love of Johnny Depp and Orlando Bloom!!!!

We took her to London, went for a spin on the London Eye, walked over Westminster Bridge, past the House of Commons, up to Downing Street, on to Horse Guards Parade, climbed over the Lions at Trafalgar Square, onto Buckingham Palace and then finally onto +Madam Tussauds where the girls met up with "The Beckhams" and had a chat in the "Big Brother Diary Room".

Celine was also a synchronized swimmer, so we took her to Coral Reef where she taught the Holdens how to do synchronized swimming!!!

What can I say, this is what Circlers do best. Hosting people we do not know but at the end think they are part of the family. Hopefully Steph will be able to see Celine and her family next year in France!!

**Irene Holden,
Woking LC Chairman,
Area 8 Chairman**





One quiet night in Bedford

All of us know somebody who has been affected in some way by cancer. Here in Bedford the four organisations Ladies Circle, Round Table, Tangent and 41 Club decided to work together to raise money for two local cancer care charities. We had the most fantastic Charity Ball held in 'The Park Inn' Bedford with over 250 guests. The live band 'Fynnius Fogg' not only provided us with fantastic entertainment but also kindly waived their fee in support of the charities. A game of reverse bingo and an e-bay style auction were our two money spinners and were both great fun. Incredibly over **16,000 pounds** was raised that one night. When the four organisations work together the sky is the limit!

Sarah Sellars, IPC Bedford.

CIRCLING AROUND!

Market Harborough Ladies Circle and Table began the annual family camping weekend in 2004. With a new venue every year we initially had 22 people, however this year our reputation had stretched to 22 adults, 26 children, 3 dogs and 2 bumps!! A few members enjoying the traditional communal Sunday breakfast before we all start to pack up and leave.

Sutton Coldfield Reaffiliates

A very special evening for circlers, tangent members, presidents and guests for after 10 absent years, past chairman Anne Whitaker was able to pass the chairman's chain onto the new chairman Sue Sharp. With strong Tangent and Round Table support, it

looks like the new Sutton Coldfield Circle will have a successful future.

Chippenham & District Ladies Circle

Raising their profile in local press with fundraising for charity SNAP. A donation to the St Nicholas' Appeal for a Pool (SNAP) of £900 was made by Chippenham & District Ladies Circle. They fund raised by various circle activities, which included events such as BBQs, car screen washes and supermarket bag packing.



Bouncing Raised.....£5,287.85

At the start of the LC year 2005/2006 Area 8 found out that Area 12 were unable to organise the South East Area Lunch.

This is where the girls decided to have a mad idea and do it a year earlier than planned so with about 9 months to do it all in, it was all hands to the pump!!! Speaker - what do we do!! We tried lots of friends who knew people, even tried for Robert Powell but he was too busy, Alan Titmarsh was already doing a talk and said how sorry he was to miss out on lunch with so many ladies. It was the least of our problems so it turned out!!! The staff at the Royal Lancaster Hotel were great. During the summer 4 eager ladies went for the tasting session and tried as much food as wine as we could!

September National Council Meeting - Letter went out inviting everyone from Scotland to Cornwall to attend the SEAL at the Royal Lancaster Hotel for only £38.50. After listening to Zoe from CF talk, I decided to offer the SEAL as a venue to do a sponsored bounce!! Ladies in Area 8 thought I was having a laugh - but I was not!!!

February 2006 - About 6 weeks before the lunch and only 60 people had booked in!!! Ughh!!!!!! Tried to cancel the lunch but found that due to the cancellation clause in the contract it was easier to go ahead with the lunch. It was then that I did an urgent SOS to Ladies Circle at the February National Council Meeting. I have to say Ladies of GB&I, you saved my bacon. On the 18th March 2006, 209 Ladies attend the SEAL Lunch Lots of you bounced and had a great time. Janey Lee Grace was excellent and lots of money raised for Cystic Fibrosis

In June at Area 8's Handover meeting, we handed over £5247.85 to Cystic Fibrosis. To top it all we were awarded the Anthony Nolan Trophy for putting the bounce into Circle!!!

It was an honour to help Rhian raise so much money for her National Charity and Area 8 could not have done it without the support from the rest of the Areas. This also tells a story of how an Area of 17 people can pull together and make something a great success!! Thank you all so much.

Irene Holden
Area 8 Chairman



Congleton Coast to Coast

During the last two weeks in August Congleton Ladies Circle undertook a sponsored walk to raise money for a local disabled children's charity. However, this walk was a walk with a difference, it covered over 200 miles from one side of England to the other! Wainwright's coast to coast walk starts at St. Bees on the Cumbrian coast and finishes at Robin Hood's Bay, travelling through the Lake District and the North Yorkshire Moors. Chairman Nichola Taylor walked the whole distance and was joined each day by other circlers, friends and family. Walkers stayed mainly at youth hostels. Fun and friendship were the main ingredients of each day as Nichola's enthusiasm was boosted not only by the fantastic scenery but the comradery and support of her fellow circlers.

Monies, which are still being collected, have been raised for the Special Adventure Playground in Newcastle-under-Lyme. This specialist play centre caters for children with a wide range of disabilities. The funds will be used to enable trained staff to facilitate children to access the equipment and ensure they maximise their potential within this exciting environment.

With Nichola at the helm, Congleton Circlers have been having fun due to a very full and varied agenda this year. Apart from horse-riding, archery, wine-tasting and an evening at Uttoxeter races, several meals have been enjoyed at local restaurants as well as a family day at Chatsworth House. 20+ Congleton Circlers and Tangent members are now busy preparing for their weekend away in Rome. They do say 'a rolling stone...'



Nichola Taylor - Congleton LC

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National Association of Ladies' Circles of Great Britain & Ireland

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More Circling news...

Southend Priory Ladies Circle

There's nothing like a good cuppa tea! We had great pleasure in presenting a 5 litre kettle with a keep warm function plus a selection of hot drinks and biscuits to the Southend-on-Sea Life Boat Station. The Life Boat Station were really delighted with the gifts especially as funds are very tight at present due to the closure of the shop at the end of the pier amounting to a loss of £130k per annum.



Increasing our Circles of Friends!

Area 20 Chairman Niki Stocken has been very busy inducting new members since she took the chair in May. In one week alone she had inducted over 12 new members - 6 to Long Eaton and 2 City of Derby. Area 20 are definitely putting into action Mandy's mission by introducing a friend to circle and it's working!



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