

# Elsie - A Real Cow!

One of our sponsored charities this year was the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. With the money we sent them they purchased a cow! The cow was added to an existing herd, which graze on Blakehill farm reserve owned by the WWT. The reserve was a disused airfield and it has been turned into a haven for wildlife and wild flowers (which grow in the short grass!). The cow was formally handed to the WWT earlier in the year in a naming ceremony. The cow was christened Elsie (or LC if you prefer), and has just become a Mum. She is a belted Galloway.

The Blakehill nature reserve opened from 27th June 2005. This vast expanse of grassland reverberated to the

drone of Dakotas taking off to fight in the battlefields of World War II Europe. Now, the sky above vibrates to the pure notes of the skylark, and the ground beneath is a rippling carpet of wildflowers.

The WWT is now carefully managing the land with the goal of restoring the entire site to wildflower-rich status within 15-20 years. Visit [www.wiltshirewildlife.org](http://www.wiltshirewildlife.org) for more info.

**Carol Morton** - Chippenham and District



## EXCITING TIMES FOR MEMBERSHIP!!



Sandwich who hope to re-affiliate this Autumn. Many areas are in this positive position and Area 4 alone has 4 groups we are hoping to turn into circles. So, busy times with so much afoot and we do want to be able to maximise the opportunity with all of them.

There are also small circles who we do not want to lose and circles without an area who need someone to be available to offer them support and look at the best way forward.

To this end we would like to set up a membership committee to ensure that support for membership is adequately covered and if you would like to be involved regionally with membership then :-

Please get in touch! Area chairmen from 1, 3, 4, 14, 23, 26, 27, 36, 37 have already shown an interest in finding out more. I need representation from as many areas as possible and would especially value input from some circlers who are without an area.

If you are thinking of standing as CMLO next year, then this committee might be a good way to find out more. As I said at the National Council Meeting I really have caught the membership bug and really want to work with you in increasing membership and securing the future of NALC.

Please ring me on 0121 733 6794 or email [richardandhelens@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:richardandhelens@yahoo.co.uk) if you would like to find out more or be involved with this membership idea.

With thanks

**Helen**, your CMLO x

Hi All

I am thrilled to report that Bromsgrove chartered as a circle this July. They put on a simply wonderful evening of fine dancing, karaoke, and we even had a silent auction which raised £569 for Breast Cancer Appeal.

It is also very exciting to hear of all the groups who are now meeting with a view to becoming a circle including

# The Circler

AUTUMN EDITION 2005

ISSN 1357-7913



# The Circler



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## Presidential Ramblings

Welcome to our Special Edition Autumn Circler, with special thanks to Mandy for all her hard work.

The summer seems to have flown by in a flurry of motorways and aeroplanes! Visits to Areas 1, 37 and 23 with Helen Hirst. Stopping at the services on the M6 to chat to two motorway safety guys, very good-looking they were too. Then on to Areas 22, 5, and 21. A lunch in 28, Bouncing in Area 20 and then to Bromsgrove where, with National CMLO Helen, we re-chartered the circle. A proud night for us all.

The Presidential visits continued right up to my daughters breaking up from school, then much to their puzzlement we had a whole two weeks as a family up in Scotland.

Then a few weeks later it was back into the swing of things and a visit to Area 42.

The LCI Conference was such a success and it was so amazing to travel with such a large "flock" from GB&I. Our thanks have been sent to the team in Iceland for all their efforts. It was made all the more special by the successful bid by GB&I to host the Conference in Aberdeen in 2008, and again we must congratulate the girls from Turiff on their hard work and endeavour. I must point out here that, yes I did fall over, but I was NOT drunk at the time. I know I wasn't drunk because it hurt!

Everywhere I've been invited the friendship has been incredible and the warmth of welcome and hospitality outstanding. Thank-you all.

A reminder to you all about a few special dates coming up soon. Killarney Conference May 12th and 13th 2006, bookings are now being taken and you will find a form in

this mag and online. Also for next year the 70th Anniversary Lunch on 16th September, there will be more details very soon, it promises to be an amazing day.

Please remember that the Anthony Nolan Award this year will be awarded to the Circler who puts bounce, enthusiasm and energy into her Circling.

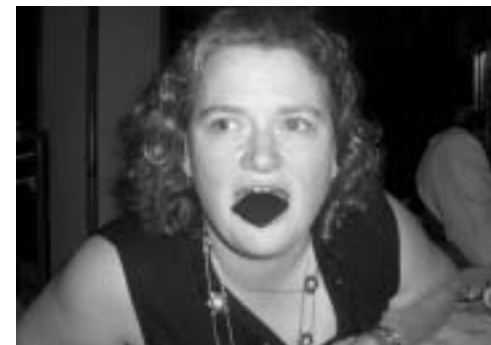
Ewe, the membership are our greatest asset and we have to be out there publicising NALC to as many women as we can. The future of the Association depends upon us;

We can make the changes and display the positives of being a member of the best club in the world.

Get out there and tell the girls about us, you know Ewe Can!

In friend-"sheep"

**Rhian**



**Rhian entertains party goers proving you can eat After Eights with no hands!**

# RACE FOR LIFE 2005 THE BIGGEST EVER!



Cancer Research UK's Race for Life 2005 was the biggest series to date. Our target was to achieve 425,000 participants and to raise £23million. We were pretty amazed when we smashed our participation target before the end of April, and by the end of the series over half a million women had entered Race for Life, which is absolutely incredible. Our sponsorship figures are just as exciting as by the end of August we have already raised nearly £25million.

The series consisted of a staggering 170 races – some weekends saw around 15 races happening on the same day. We developed the concept of weekend races (Saturday afternoon / Sunday morning) and this year launched our "Two-in-a-Day" races (Sunday morning / Sunday afternoon), which worked particularly well. These double races are a cost effective way for us to increase our participation numbers and maximise on fundraising potential, and will be rolled out further in 2006.

The size and scale of Race for Life has changed enormously over our 12-year history, but one key feature remains unchanged – Race for Life is still delivered on the day almost entirely through the support of volunteers. Considering the numbers involved nowadays, and the number of races held each weekend between May and July, this is an incredible achievement.

The support afforded to Cancer Research UK's Race for Life from the Ladies' Circles is magnificent and hugely appreciated by the team. Our achievements are your achievement – without the input of special women from Ladies Circles up and down the country, Race for Life would be a much harder task and we are very grateful for the assistance and the friendships that have become a feature of these Races.

Our heartfelt thanks go to all the Ladies who have turned out in all weathers over the last few months to staff our administration marquees, hand out medals and water, to provide friendly advice, sell millions of pink bands and generally keep the races running like clockwork.

All relationships need to be kept fresh and the Race for Life team feel there is so much more we can do together to take our relationship forward and to develop our partnership. Watch this space! With around 220 races planned for 2006, we are raring to go and look forward to really working hard for you, and with you, on another successful series.

Thank you so much for your continued support.

Best wishes

**Sarah Collingridge**, Race for Life, Cancer Research UK.

## They'll be wearing Pink pyjamas!

At the National council meeting, attendees were urged to wear pink pyjamas, to support Breast cancer awareness month.

What a site 70 women walking around the hotel in various states of undress, some covered up with warm flannelette, others (Barbara Wrightson) showed their legs, dainty slippers, sheep slippers and pink sheep wellies! We had it all and we answered all the questions of the bemused hotel guests and staff.

Gary Smith chose Diane Phillips as the winner of the best Pyjamas competition. Many thanks to Rhian's PLC for putting on such a splendid weekend.



## EVERY EVENT IS A MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITY!



It was a somewhat blustery day, as Pooh Bear might have said, but that didn't stop women and girls from turning out in their thousands to either run or give support! The atmosphere was great.

The area chairman's daughter and myself took on the task of selling the pink wristbands. Not content with staying by the registration tent we worked the crowd and were swamped at times! Between the two of us we sold over 800 wristbands. Ladies Circle as a whole sold almost 1400. We also took the opportunity to hand out Circle leaflets as we sold bands.

Felicity (area Chairman at the time) and Michelle (then Vice) managed to get onto the RAM FM stage and were live on air talking about Circle. We took names and contact numbers for several women who expressed an

interest and these have been followed up. We are hoping to get a few of them along to a couple of events before the summer break. So, all in all, a fantastic day for both Cancer Research and Ladies Circle.

**Jacqui Haspel**, Derby Merlin Chairman

Claire Bull (Derby Merlin), Jo Scott (Derby Merlin), Bec Wilson (Derby Merlin), Felicity Brown (Area Chair at the time), Emma Ingleby (Derby Merlin), Lindsey Bristow (Ilkeston) and leaning on the table is Michelle Taylor (Area VC at time, now Chair).

## OBITUARY Gail Scott

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the death of Gail Scott on 25th November 2004, after a courageous five year battle against breast cancer.

Gail joined Liskeard & Looe Ladies Circle in July 1978 and held most positions during her time in Circle, including that of Chairman in 1981/82. She was an enthusiastic and inspiring member throughout her membership, she retired in 1995 but remained a very hard working honorary member for a number of years, being an active member of Tangent too. One of her unique skills was that of writing verse for various significant events, including interruptions at Area handover dinners, both for Circle and Table.

She was a very useful reference as regards how official business should be conducted, having experienced our Area meetings when numbers were much greater than in recent years. She was our Millennium President for Area 33 and very actively

involved in that year with Area events.

As a memorial, Liskeard & Looe Ladies Circle, supported by Tangent, 41 Club and Round Table held a "Ball for Gail", a wonderful Summer Ball in honour of her memory. Support for the event was received from so many sources, it made us realise what a special lady she had been throughout the wider community, not just to our Circle. Over £8,500 was raised at this event, which included a firework display. The monies raised were for Macmillan Cancer Care and our local hospice, both of which were of support to Gail and her family during her illness, during which time she never complained, never asked "why me?", but continued to support and inspire everyone around her.

She leaves husband Colin, daughter Alex and son John, our thoughts are with them."

## OBITUARY Hilary Cross - Aged 55

It is with sadness and regret that we inform you of the death of Hilary on 2nd August 2005.

Hilary joined Rushden Ladies Circle in 1979 and was from the start a very active and enthusiastic member. She was a wizard with a needle and we would never have managed without her expertise making fancy dress costumes.

In 1987-88 she became Circle chairman, the highlight

of her year being a charity medieval banquet. She joined Rushden Tangent and served as chairman in 1997-8.

Hilary lost her fight against cancer in August this year, although she continued to attend meetings and social events up until her last couple of months. Her courage was much admired and her friendship missed but not forgotten. Our thoughts are with husband Micheal and daughters Shan and Jill.

# OVER THE TOP!

In a bid to raise funds to support my year as President, I embarked on my first fundraiser of the year, along with others from Bedworth Circle, Area 48 LC Exec and Area 45 RT Exec and the PLC of course – an abseil at the Warwickshire Fire Station. Having abseiled before, albeit a long, long time I ago, I knew I could do it, despite my fear of heights. Although apprehensive, I just kept telling myself 'don't look down and just keep looking into the eyes of the instructor as they direct you to the edge' – simple!

So when I finally reached the top of the tower, extremely breathless, on a hot summers evening and was told I had to climb over the window ledge, facing forward, the look of horror on my face must have said it all.

Going down wasn't the problem, I felt quite safe on all those ropes. However, sitting on the widow sill, facing forward, eyes closed and allowing myself to push off forwards so I could turn round and make my decent wasn't an experience I would willingly want to repeat. Unlike some of the group who had two or even three turns. However the sense of achievement once down made those few scary seconds worthwhile.

By doing the abseil we have raised around £1200 which will be split between the Warwickshire Air ambulance and the funding required for me to carry out my duties as National President in 2006/7 of the National Association of Ladies Circle.

Big thanks must go to all the Circlers in Area 48, Coventry Three Spires, Warwick, Bedworth and Nuneaton Round Tablers and Bedworth 41 Club who supported me – Thanks All. Its got my fundraising off to a good start, and

supported a really worthwhile charity. Seeing all those men in Uniform was just the icing on the cake!

**Mandy Vines** - NALC National Vice President



### Info from Ed:

Copy deadline for next magazine is 6th January 2006

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## AREA 20 PUT THE BOUNCE BACK INTO CIRCLE – **LITERALLY!**

**Never ones to merely pay lip service to the words of National President Rhian, the ladies of Area 20 gathered at a local village park one rather blustery summer (?) evening to take part in the first Area Sporting Challenge of the year.**

As luck would have it – or was it perfect planning – our mini Olympics took place on the day that it had been announced to the world that London would host the 2012 Olympic Games.

Rhian was our special guest and it was with some trepidation that the teams assembled for an evening of "bouncing". All was revealed when they reached the start line to find bright pink space hoppers awaiting them.

The sprint event was first – obviously I use the term "sprint" very loosely! This was followed by the long distance event – only for those with a bit more stamina and the ability to turn round whilst bouncing on their space hopper!

Cries of disbelief rang out when the next event was announced – HURDLES (yes, still on space hoppers!!). And then finally it was on to the final showdown, the Novelty event.

Time for Rhian to show us what she was made of. First of all it was into the sack to bounce down the course to the skipping rope. Then skip to the bean bag and then bounce with it between the knees to hand over to a team mate who would bounce all the way back to the start on – yes, you've guessed it – the space hopper.

The sight of grown women bouncing away and shouting encouragement bemused the locals but all had a great time. About 55 members of Area 20 turned out that night – a fantastic turn out! My own circle, Derby Merlin, provided the Chilli and salad for afterwards (massive thanks to them!) and we all had a wonderful time. For me it was circling at it's best – friends getting together for a fun, social evening - we hope Rhian enjoyed herself!

Oh, yes and the winners were... City of Nottingham! Well-done ladies!

## South East Area Luncheon 2006



Area 8 Chairman Irene Holden and  
Luncheon Chairman Christina Wardle,  
invite you to join us

on

Saturday 18th March 2006

At

The Royal Lancaster Hotel, London

Tickets £38.50

Please contact Irene Holden via  
'HoldIYH@aol.com'

or call

**01483 723993**





# Belief turns dreams to reality!

Rickmansworth and Northwood, raise £75000 to build a local adventure playground.



Back in 2002, our chair at the time Maria Finn, encouraged us to look outside of the norm, she saw we had potential, to work a wee bit harder, be more imaginative and work on a large project, together. We all had small ones, and our local park was a disgrace.

We thought she was bonkers but agreed to support. We planned a 2-year campaign but only had one year to raise the money, the next two were centred on dealing with the local Council and Play Equipment companies.

In fact after we raised the initial £50,000, our original figure - the Council insisted we raise another £25,000 to cover the cost of them managing it, more safety flooring, insurance for the equipment - the list just went on and on. But we did it. How.....

With normal Ladies Circle events, from Tin shaking to Quiz nights, Santa Collections, working with Local Roundtables - try Ferret chasing and presentations to the local Lions, Round Table and Rotary clubs who gave us £4000.

Writing heaps of letters to local companies resulted in £25,000 from Cadbury a large local company who had a budget for local activities incorporating fitness and the environment. The local park was within a local beauty spot but was falling into state of disrepair. They also committed to a 10-year rolling maintenance plan. Local developer Country Metropolitan offered £5000 - we approached them as they advertised on the roundabout, we offered them an annual advertising spot at the park instead.

Some local companies set up websites, for every hit they donated a £1.00. Personal donations were received as a result of newspaper coverage.

We produced T-shirts and stickers, sponsored by a local printing company that pushed forward the name of the campaign RAAP, Rickmansworth Aquadrome Adventure Playground. RAAP became a talking point amongst parents and children; it really started to gather momentum. We then started to fill in every form we could get our hands on that offered grants.

Following an initial presentation our Local Council were also recruited. The offered us £10,000 towards our fundraising - after two years of constant meetings this was raised to £28,000.

The total sum raised was £75,000. The park was opened on the 23rd July with 'Cilla' from Coronation Street.

I really think persistence got us this far. We really believed that we had the skills, and the determination (which shocked our local Council). Locally Ladies Circle has grown because we have shown people that we are not about making Jam and the likes but can be serious fundraisers, who really make a difference to our community.

**Message from Ed: Well done girls, you certainly proved 'Ewe' can!**



## Round Table & Ladies' Circle National Conference Ceile in Killarney 12th - 13th May 2006

Book Online at [www.killarney2006.com](http://www.killarney2006.com)  
OR RETURN THIS FORM TO: -  
**RTBI/NALC National Conference 2006, PO Box 104, Banbridge Co Down BT32 9AA**

E-mail: - <a href="mailto:registration@killarney2006.com">registration@killarney2006.com</a>		Conference Fax - 08715210106		Conference Phone/Helpline 079 672 365 79	
Applicant Name		Partner Name			
Table / Circle No		Table / Circle No		Area No	
Table Area Vice Chairman / Circle Chair 2005/06		Table Area Vice Chairman / Circle Chair 2005/06		Yes / No	
Address		Day Tel:			
		Even Tel:			
		Fax:			
		E-mail:			
Post Code					
<b>Registration</b>		<b>Applicant</b>		<b>Partner</b>	
Conference Pass					
Thursday night - Welcome to Ireland		105			
Friday Night Presidential Ball - Black Tie		35			
Saturday Night Early Evening Ceile		60			
Golf - <a href="http://www.Killarney-golf.com">www.Killarney-golf.com</a> -Mahony's Point		45			
		90			
<b>20 Discount per person if booked and paid in full before 31st January '06</b>					
Tick room required: Twin <input type="checkbox"/> Double <input type="checkbox"/> Thur <input type="checkbox"/> Fri <input type="checkbox"/> Sat <input type="checkbox"/>					
Gleneagle/Scott's Hotel 150 per room per night					
Brehon Hotel 160 per room per night					
Treble/Family rooms - rates and availability on request No of Nights <input type="text"/>					
Special Dietary requirements					
				Registration Total	
				Accommodation Total	
				Total Cost	
				Deposit enclosed	

Please complete the appropriate section. A deposit of 100 per person is required with all bookings. Balances are due by 31.01.2006

Amex and Diners Card

ie No

I authorise you to debit my account

## TERMS & CONDITIONS

1. Registration will be accepted up to and during Conference subject to availability. Capacity to attend the events is capped. It is in your best interest to Book early and make the most of the preferential rate.
  2. A Conference Pass will need to be purchased for all delegates wishing to attend any of the functions and/or the golf.
  3. Booking forms will NOT be processed without a deposit (cash – euros, euro cheque or credit card details). Bookings will be confirmed and a Registration Number issued. Balances must be paid before the 31st January 2006 to receive the early booking discount of 20 per person. Please bring your Registration Number with you when you register.
  4. Cancellation of bookings received in writing quoting your Registration Number will be accepted up to 31st March 2006 subject to an Administration Charge of 40 per person. After 31st March 2006 NO cancellation refunds will be made. Delegates are advised to take out their own insurance to cover this eventuality.
  5. Accommodation is available in either the Gleneagle or Scott's Hotels or upgrade for an additional 10 per night per room to their sister hotel The Brehon. Accommodation allocated at the discretion of the accommodation convenor.
  6. Transport will be provided during the Conference period to and from conference Hotels.
  7. Transport will be provided to and from Kerry/Cork Airports subject to availability. A charge may be levied for this service.
- Passes MUST be worn at all times. Lost passes can be replaced with the payment of an administration charge.

In returning this form to the Killarney Conference Organisers who are acting as agents of RTBI you are confirming that you have consented and/or you have obtained the consent of the individuals named on this form to their details being held on the RTBI databases. The information will be stored for a maximum of 18 months and will be used for purposes in connection with the activities of Round Table.

Name (Print)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

We have been working really hard preparing to bring you the "Conference of a Lifetime" at the Ceile in Killarney in May 2006. Already bookings are flooding in, and most seem to be booking for all three evening events, so it would appear that the institution of the Thursday evening "Welcome to Conference" event has been well received.

A Ceile (pronounced KAI-lee) is a traditional Irish gathering of musicians. It is a night of fun and good craic (pronounced "crack" it is all of the fun and laughter of friends enjoying each others company, but it is much more than this, and it is only in Ireland that you will truly experience "good craic")

I would urge those of you who are keen to attend the evening functions to book early. We have set an upper limit on each of the events to ensure the comfort of everyone who attends, so get your bookings in **EARLY!!!**

At this stage of the proceedings it costs only a deposit of 100 (approximately £68) per person to book conference, with the remainder due in January 2006. So use the form printed in this magazine, or book online at [www.killarney2006.com](http://www.killarney2006.com) –book NOW and you will receive 20 discount per person and guarantee your place in the HQ hotel.

# BROMSGROVE - RE CHARTER

Bromsgrove Ladies Circle re-affiliated this year & to celebrate we held our 1st Charter on Saturday 16th July. The event was attended by Ladies Circles National President Rhian Fear, Area Chairman Kayla Norman & Round Table Area Chairman Richard Hallstead, National Membership Liaison Officer Helen Hallstead, Bromsgrove Round Table and a host of Ladies & Gents from Area 4.

As part of the event we held a "Silent Auction" in aid of Breast Cancer that raised a fantastic total of £569.00.

This would not have been possible had it not been for the generosity shown by the local shop owners in the Bromsgrove Town Centre & Longbarn Village Alcester Heath who donated so generously:

We had a wonderful evening with fine dining & "karaoke." Maverick's (Gary Smith Round Table National President) Top Gun posse did us proud with a wonderful rendition of "You've Lost That Loving Feeling" followed by "In the Navy", I even succumbed myself with a little Patsy Cline rendition.



It was a great pleasure to have Rhian and Helen along for the event. Particularly as they both were with us at the beginning when we had our first open night, back in September last year, when we were only just beginning to get Circle back up & running in Bromsgrove. It is thanks to them & their help & support that we are where we are today.

**Jo-Anne O'Donnell** - Chairman of Bromsgrove Ladies Circle



# AREA 46 HANDOVER LUNCHEON

On her recent visit to her homeland, our National President Rhian (a glorious name might I add) does not look very happy in this photo.



Has she finally lost her sheep!!!!!! I hope we gave her a good welsh welcome, and we wish her all the best, (Pob lwc I ti cariad) Sorry, I had to get a bit of WELSH in there.

Seated with Rhian is our 42nd Area 46 Chairman Jan Caie. A busy life our Jan leads, nursing by day (sometimes nights – occupational hazard) while combining a husband and kids with her passion for Air ballooning. Her exec this year would like her to know, we are all behind her and all the circlers from Area 46 hope she has a brilliant year with plenty of fun and friendship.

**Rhian Hives**  
Area 46 Publicity Officer

**Ed days: Send your captions for this photo to me - there will be a prize!**

## Torquay Circle get ready to wrap at Christmas

Members of Torquay Circle have begun preparations for our annual Christmas fundraising. Each year we set up a 'wrapping station' in the centre of the town where we wrap presents that people have bought whilst out shopping. We will be in the centre of Torquay for the last three Fridays and Saturdays before Christmas. Most of our wrapping paper, bows and ribbons are donated, or people can supply their own. In return they are asked to make a donation to a local charity.

We have wrapped a huge variety of presents of all shapes and sizes. The benefit of us wrapping presents is people can go home with their shopping wrapped which saves them time, and the presents are hidden from prying eyes. We also like to think that our wrapping is usually quite neat and stylish. Our gift-wrapping has proved very popular and many customers return each year.

It is a great way of getting into the Christmas spirit. We are on good terms with several local food and drink shops (it is a shame there are no pubs nearby!) who support us with a supply of hot drinks and cakes. We manage to raise over £1000 each year. We get to meet a lot of people and raise the profile of Circle in the town.

**Helen Addison** - Area 19 Chairman



## OBITUARY Jean Robinson

It is with deep regret that I notify you of the death of Jean Robinson, on September 15th 2005, aged 75.

A keen member of Preston Circle she became Area 35 Chairman in 1967 - 68. Having undertaken a number of roles within Circle and having founded several Circles she became International Editor and

penned the book 'Service above Self' a history of Ladies Circle. She was thrilled to become an honorary life member of NALC.

She leaves behind daughters Candace, Andrea and Dinah. Our thoughts are with them.

# Coventry 199 50th Charter Celebration

This event was a fantastic reunion opportunity to reminisce and share memories and to meet new friends. It was a super-hot day and the Brandon Hall was suitably "posh" for our special event. Hats were the order of the day too, but no gloves would have been frowned upon in 1955. However, it would have been a tall order to ask everyone to wear gloves in that heat.

Peggy Grunau, Chairman and founder member in 1955, kindly lent us some memorabilia and was very much looking forward to coming and even offered to say a few words. Other founder members, Mary Maginniss, Treasurer, and Doreen Pargetter, Social Secretary attended.

We were also privileged to have the "top brass" with us: Helen Halstead, National Charities & Membership Liaison Officer, Mandy Vines from Bedworth Ladies Circle and who is of course, our National Vice President, and Tammy Hope a fellow 199 circler who is also Area Chairman of Area 48.

As a relative new member to Circle - (3 years), compared to some of the ladies present, I found it

fascinating to put this event together, with the help of my fellow circlers. I sifted through many old photos of all sorts of different events held since 1955, looking at the fashions, and protocol of circle in those days. And it has proved to me how important it is for us current circlers to keep a record of all the events we attend with photographs that also note the date and venue. They are so much appreciated in years to come. The photo display we put together was of great interest to the past members and caused a lot of excitement when old friends and past events were recognised and remembered.

The meal was superb, the surroundings spectacular and my son Sam who is 9, and a local composer, Brendan Beales from Coventry, put together a little recital - I must admit I found it heart rending. All in all it was a lovely event and I have had many thank you letters from all the ladies who appreciated it. So congratulations to Coventry 199 and here's to the next 50!

**Jo Burne** - Chairman - Coventry 199 Ladies Circle

## Baildon Ladies Circle - Cow Splat Challenge

T'was a cold and frosty December morn down on t'farm with an eerie mist billowing round t'cow byre. Actually it wasn't that cold and it was only a little bit wet and the only thing billowing around the yard was Rachel scraping out with her tractor!!

It was the summer of 2004 when it was suggested by Di (Chairman Baildon Ladies Circle) to hold a Cowsplat Challenge to raise money for our chosen charity, Riding for the Disabled. "What a fab idea" "Great fundraiser" "Brill" was the enthusiastic reply from the Circlers. Then in chorus "What the hell is a cow splat challenge?"

Here's the technical bit:- Circlers sell 100 squares that are set on a grid on the scale of the proposed field. Once sold a date is set and the cow booked (very busy these cows)

The cow is set free in a field and watched carefully to determine the correct placing of her first pat. The grid reference is taken and a winner is announced  
- EASY - !!!!

Raquel was the chosen cow and she did us proud and performed within minutes of being let loose in the field so we were all soon inside the farmhouse enjoying Rachel and Stephens hospitality. (Not Raquel though that would have been silly as she doesn't like coffee.) The winner of the £50 prize was Andrea.





# Icelandic Experience

## My first International Conference - yes I was a LCI virgin - but oh what an experience!

It is very hard to put into words the atmosphere, the immense attendance of women from all around the world attending in one place for one key thing 'friendship'.

I have been to National Conference twice now and even on both those occasions I have been surprised but, somehow LCI was the icing on the cake. To realise that we have one thing in common with women from Botswana to Madagascar, from Finland to Israel is amazing and the fact that we all joined together to enjoy each other's company; to exchange gifts, badges and stories was fantastic.

Iceland itself was a spectacular place and I am now convinced all the footage of the man on the moon was simply shot there for convenience!

Yes, alcohol was expensive and I am now well experienced in making a glass of wine last 1hr instead of 15 minutes!

We had an extremely proud to be British, or even Scottish, moment when we won the bid for the 2008 LCI in Aberdeen - all we can say is: -

'It's coming home, it's coming home, LCI is coming home'

If you have never been to LCI before then take the chance to go to the Alkmaar, Netherlands next year - cheaper travelling and accommodation, but lots of fun to be enjoyed.

On a serious note, on that weekend in August, all 34



countries came together with 'peace' in mind, typically it involved women (and some men) - if only all the world leaders could see from our example that peace and friendship world-wide is actually possible!

**Michelle Taylor** - Area 20 Chairman

## NETHERLANDS CONFERENCE 7TH TO 10TH SEPTEMBER 2006!

Holland is busy preparing a great AGM for you in 2006 in the town of Alkmaar.

Come and join us for a fantastic experience of fun and friendship in the land of Cheese and Tulips.

You can book using the registration form available on [www.ladiescircle.nl](http://www.ladiescircle.nl), click on the SAY CHEESE logo.

There are a number of pre tours

available and a variety of tours available on Saturday 9th September.

Transfers are available from Schiphol Airport Amsterdam and there are numerous flights to this Airport from the UK.

Should you need any advice or help with bookings or if you are unsure about going to a LCI Conference, please feel free to contact Mandy Vines.

# TANGENT NEWS



## Note from President Judy

On behalf of the National Association of Tangent Clubs I would like to thank your Executive for giving us the opportunity to promote Tangent Clubs in your magazine.

We were founded 40 years ago, the purpose was the continuation and extension of friendships made in Ladies Circle. We have few rules and regulations and what rules we have are not always set in stone but our main aims are:

- To link Tangent Clubs together
- The continuation of friendships made in Circle
- To help Ladies Circle when asked.

Our members feel very lucky to belong to Tangent, as our Association is based on friendship. It is one of life's greatest pleasures to have fun and friendship with like minded people, who you may have known for many years.

As a Tangent member you can get as much or as little from your membership as you wish, but as in life the more you give the more you get back. This year as President I am seeing first hand, how Tangent Clubs work, I am very pleased to say it does not matter where in the country I go the friendship and fun of our members is just the same.

We now have a new web site [www.tangent-clubs.org](http://www.tangent-clubs.org), which is linked to Ladies Circle, Round Table and 41 Club sites. If you want to know if there is a club in your area just log on and you will find out all about our officers and association.

So when your time comes to leave Ladies Circle please give Tangent a chance. I know we may seem years older and may have a few grey hairs but do not be fooled by our exterior as most of our members have a lot of fun and travel the world.

It has been a real pleasure working with Ladies Circle as I think if we work together and help each other we have a greater chance of surviving.

My best wishes and good luck for your 70th Birthday next year.



**Judy Holdaway** - National President

# WE ARE HERE FOR YOU WHERE ARE YOU?

As IPP one of my tasks is to contact retiring Circlers to remind them of the existence of Tangent - The life thereafter perhaps! The Good Life. I have written to some 200 Circlers since May. Two replies have told me they are remaining as 'honorary members' of Circle, would I be foolish enough to assume the remaining 198 have joined Tangent! No, I wouldn't, But why?

The National Association of Tangent Clubs primarily is there to let 'Friendship continue' and they do with 16500

members in 650 clubs. We have fun, we keep contacts alive, we support Circle when invited to do so, and we support each other in inevitable difficult times!

Our capitation is only £2.50 so what have you got to lose - perhaps there is a lot to gain. We are there for you, what is stopping you being there for us?

**Hilary McCall** - Immediate Past President

# Two Year Boost for Local Hospice



When I lost my mum to cancer in 2002, I knew exactly what to choose as my nominated charity when I took over the chair in 2003 - the local hospice that had cared for mum during the last weeks of her life.

True to form, Wallington & Carshalton Circle rallied behind me, organising a quiz night, a Frog race night (yes I do mean FROG!), the Carnival tea tent and Carnival Queen's Float, and a big raffle at my Ladies Night (as well as a fabulous interruption!).

We also donned cagoules and wellies to feed the army of helpers at our Round Table Fireworks display in return for a donation to our charity fund (and many thanks to Round Table for a very generous donation last year).

I stayed in the chair for a further year in 2004 whilst

my new circlers settled into Circle life, and over the two year period, this small circle together with our dedicated band of honoraries have raised nearly £8,000 for St Raphael's Hospice. With last year's donation the Hospice were able to replace 10 chairs in their Day Care unit and 2 specialised chairs on the ward, and in June we will hand over a cheque to part fund a mattress costing £4,000.

As well as raising this magnificent amount for the Hospice, Wallington & Carshalton have continued to donate regular sums each year to Cancer Research UK, and to an Old Peoples Day Centre built by Round Table nearly 40 years ago. We also hold 2 tea parties every year for the elderly, and host a swimming party for our kids (and for those big Round Table kids!) to say thank you for their support during the year. And then we go out and have fun!

As I move from Circle chair to Area 17 Chair, I send my heartfelt thanks to all the girls of Wallington & Carshalton; although we usually manage to raise quite a bit for our chosen charity these two years have been outstanding, and are something we should all be particularly proud of.

**Alison Dadswell** - Wallington & Carshalton Ladies Circle

# NATIONWIDE EXPOSURE?

Our mission, should we choose to accept it - raise the profile of Ladies Circle, both locally and nationally. Accept it? No question there - we were off and running with the idea in Area 20.

Inside sources informed Michelle, Area 20 Chairman, that Bargain Hunt was filming in the area for a live broadcast. The mission was on and our top agents were on the case. Michelle and Derby Merlin Chairman Jacqui donned their Area T-shirts and mingled with the crowds.

It didn't take too long to get noticed by a BBC researcher - well, the lovely matching blue T-shirts

were a bit of a give-away - and it only took a few minutes of chatting to earn Michelle a quick slot on the programme. She plugged Ladies Circle on national TV before joining forces with Jacqui again to bid on an item spotted earlier. As luck would have it this was a Bargain Hunt Lot so, guess what, we were on TV again bidding!

After successfully winning the lot, which will be raffled off later in the year for charity, there was time for another quick chat with our new best friend Tim, an autograph and a photo. We're now waiting for our invitation to be contestants - it's only a matter of time!

# WE'RE HAVIN A BALL

## BILSTON MASQUERADE BALL

The Bilston Branch of Ladies Circle had been intent on holding a masquerade ball in the early part of 2005 prior to the Chairman, Shelley's changeover.

The initial preparations for this event began in early January and obviously, at this time, the events of the Boxing Day Tsunami were still very fresh in everyone's mind. It was therefore agreed that as well as being a fun, social event, the main aim of the evening would be to raise funds for the Tsunami appeal.

An organisation was identified called "International Aid Trust" who were building the first of 4 planned villages in Sri Lanka.

Land has already been identified for the first village in the region of Katana in the southwest. Rich coconut plantation land, approximately six to seven acres would provide 100 family units housing a total of six to eight hundred people. There would be a school, health centre, community centre and playground. Within the village, there will be an element of self-help with the coconut plantation providing fibre and wood products and enabling the villagers to produce handicrafts.

The entire project is estimated at costing between £125,000 and £150,000 but will transform and save lives, creating a future out of disaster.

Sponsoring a house in this village would cost £600, so

with this in mind we hoped to make a profit of at least that amount from the evening.

The ball was held on 18th March 2005 at the Mount Hotel, Tettenhall Wood (Near Wolverhampton). Several of the guests made personal donations and several prizes were donated for the raffle.

The night was a great success, with the total raised being £650. We had achieved our aim and are now sponsoring a house in the village.

**Joanne Aston** - Bilston LC - 485



# Liskeard and Looe Party girl Gail's pals have a ball and raise £8,500 for cancer charities!

A glittering ball organised by Liskeard and Looe Ladies' Circle in memory of a former member, who lost a battle against cancer, was a huge success and a sell out with every one of the 280 tickets being sold.

The event, called 'A Ball for Gail' was a tribute to Gail Scott, known by many people in Liskeard and the surrounding areas.

Gail lost her battle against cancer last November.

Those attending the ball did her memory proud by having a very enjoyable evening

and at the same time they raised £8,500 for the Mount Edgcombe Hospice and Macmillan Cancer Relief, two of the charities that cared for Gail during her illness.

The ball was held in a marquee at Little Trethew, Horningtops, the home of Hedley and Sue Martin, where



guests were served a five-course dinner, danced to the band 'Sunset' and contributed to an auction and raffle.

The event ended with a spectacular fireworks display.