

Rise & Shine with Cwmbran Ladies Circle

Cwmbran Ladies Circle 265 recently held a 'Breakfast' fundraiser event, where e enjoyed a healthy breakfast at 8pm - yes it was in the evening! Dressed up in our pyjamas and sun glasses we had a great breakfast managed to raise £60 for the Area 26 charity 'The Jamie Adamson Memorial Fund'.



Area 4 spread the Circle word!

In November, we had a New Members Evening, jointly with Round Table. The theme was a 'Night at the Races' with fun betting on pre-recorded horse races together with a buffet supper. We were delighted to welcome Sharon and Sam from Area to this event. In December Pip had the honour of inducting Susanna Atkinson & Tina Envine, both girls found Circle through our highly successful membership night in July run by Suzanne Green. In February, we inducted are 19th member Annette Darby.

Circle is certainly growing in Bromsgrove!

Jo-Anne Till, Bromsgrove 166 LC



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Carry On International Circling!

On Friday 23rd March Area 3 Ladies Circle gathered at The Tower House Hotel in Halifax for an International Friendship Evening - twenty six booked and twenty six came, a top result and possibly a first for Circle! We all had a fabulous evening and it was well attended by many 'Special' girls to 'Carry on International Circling' in style.

International President Tracey and her Board were the guests of honour: Vice President Kathleen Flynn from Malta, Immediate Past President Sylvia Mwansa from Zambia, Treasurer Kirsten Pressl from Germany and Secretary Kristel Viilver from Estonia. Other guests were National President Mandy Vines, Vice President Michelle Taylor, National CMLO Kayla Norman and National Treasurer Gill Fisher, Area 2 Chairman Gaye Turner, six members of our Area 3 Exec including Janine and Claire and circlers from Hebden Bridge, Brighouse, Dewsbury, Halifax, and Holme Valley.

After introductions from Tracey and Janine gift presentations were made to the international visitors and Mandy lit the Candle of Friendship. Circle grace had the international twist, spoken in English by Tracey followed by Maltese, Estonian, Zambian and German. This was Janine's idea and it was lovely to hear the ladies speaking their own languages. They did not find this easy and had to translate on paper first, because English is the language of LCI, so whenever they are carrying out Ladies Circle business they speak English.

As the evening progressed we ate and talked and throughout the evening, first the LCI Board and then National Exec, stood and read out the things they had written in Janine's now famous little pink book. It was Sylvia's idea to do this and what a good one it was, everyone had something special to say and it was great that it was shared with all of us. We had a move around for the pudding course, but everybody moved around and chatted with everyone else anyway, it was an evening of true friendship.

The highlight of the evening for me was the induction of a new member Angela especially as she will be a member of Holme Valley Ladies Circle. Tracey inducted Angela at the beginning of the evening and presented her with an International Badge and an Area 3 badge, a fairly exciting and unusual start to Circle membership. Angela was also invited to write in the little pink book and she was asked to share her comments with everyone and this is what she had to say.....

"Thank you all for welcoming me - it's been a great evening and I have enjoyed meeting you all, very much. Thank you for your friendship"

The raffle raised £120.00 for the LCI project which is to build a home for orphans in Nepal. The raffle prizes were given by Tracey and our newest member won one which was a very fitting end to her induction.

Tracey and her Board enjoyed the evening so much that they are to propose that every country hold a friendship evening on the 11th of February each year which is LCI day, which is a wonderful accolade for Area 3, leading the way as ever! I enjoyed the evening enormously and I know everyone else did, memories such as these stay with us forever and past make Ladies Circle so 'Special'.

Helena Housley, Immediate Past Chairman



Ramsey & District 1194 & Local Cancer Research UK Branch

Ramsey & District 1194 recently donated over £800 to the local Branch of Cancer Research UK and have forged a good friendship with the group and have met up on many occasions.

Here the ladies joined us for a meal at a local Restaurant where we listened to Chairman of the Ramsey, Huntingdon & St Ives CRUK branch, Sally Wilson, tell us how donated monies have been spent locally, including the national funding of a new research centre in Cambridge, which is attached to Addenbrookes Hospital.

We also helped raise over £2,000 with a Silent Auction when they attended the group's annual Ball at the Marriott Hotel, Huntingdon.

We intend to continue the link with the local CRUK branch - this way we get first hand knowledge of how donations are utilised and get to hear about any exciting new research. And of course our link with them could bring more ladies to Circle.

Karen Hutchcraft, Ramsey & District 1194 Area 25



The Circler



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What a feeling in Cardiff

Michelle drives herself into the hot seat as National President at Cardiff Conference. All singing and dancing for fun and freindship - Little miss positive is determined to put a positive spin on Circle.



FEEL THE PASSION FOR CIRCLE AND MAKE IT HAPPEN

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

DESIGNER DRESSES WITH A TWIST!
TORQUAY TAKE ON THE ROYAL MARINES
RISE AND SHINE WITH CWMBRAN

With a little help from my friends



Welcome to the 2007 Conference Edition of the Circler. Cardiff conference was as always fantastic, red carpet, star appeal and a city with so much to offer. Thank you to the Conference Chairman Steve Dite and team for putting on a great conference and making the weekend special for all.

Once again, we have a brand new executive leading NALC into the next Circle year. In June we closed the doors on our headquarters at Keighley. We have been there since the 1960's and it was hard to say goodbye to our long-time serving employees Jacky Hudson, Margaret Boston and Jo Taylor. All have plans to enjoy a relaxing retirement, with new horizons for some.

NALC will be facing those new horizons too, as we embark on our journey to Marchesi House and joining Round Table and 41 Club. On behalf of the organisation I would like to welcome Joan Adams onto the team. Joan will be working for NALC at the Marchesi House, so if you need to ask for anything Joan is the one with the answers!

As for the Presidential year, lots of fun and friendship planned. I am looking forward to seeing you all throughout the year. This year, my presidential theme is music. Music is a universal language with no barriers. It creates moods, feelings, emotions and memories but it can also motivate. 'What a feeling', from Flashdance is my theme - not that I envisage entering into a room with leg warmers and lycra, but it stirs up positive vibes that can inspire anyone to achieve their dream.

I can relate the lyrics "feel the passion" to my passion for Circle and this is what has led me to where I am today. Seeing our dreams; believing they can happen; wanting to make them happen - that sums up how much I want Circle to strive and continue long into the 21st century.

Fun, friendship and support are the attributes of Circle - attributes that we should be able to take for granted as a child. I have chosen ChildLine as my national charity this year. An organisation that so needs vital funds to help answer the 1,000's of calls it receives daily from children who feel they have no other support or anyone to turn to.

Opening out, talking to each other and the ability to listen are all valuable skills. Children need to know that ChildLine is there to help them; to listen to their problems and to give advice where necessary.

The PLC team have been working really hard on making sure all is well for my Presidential year. PLC Chairman, Darren Brookes and the team are looking forward to seeing you all at the Presidential Ball in September.

Every year a challenge is set by the President, this year my challenge to you all is 'profile'. If we look at all the selling attributes of our organisation we know if we wrapped it up in beautiful gift wrap put a bow on it and sold friendship in a box - it would sell - that is what we have to do!

We can only increase our membership numbers if we shout out about it. Mandy's mission last year was for everyone to bring a friend - did you do it?

Is there still a friend out there, just waiting to be asked?

The deadline date for the challenge is 14th February 2008 - so come on girls, let's profile this great organisation - let the GB&I know what Ladies Circle is made of!

I hope you will all enjoy your year in Ladies Circle - continue to enjoy the fun and friendship that Circle brings into your lives and please, share it with everyone.

Yours in friendship,

Michelle Taylor, National President 2007-2008

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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:

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Welcome

Circlers, past, present and future, welcome to the Summer 2007 Edition of the Circler. As you can see it is packed with Fun, Friendship and Fundraising.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed articles, please continue to send them in for the next edition. The deadline for articles is 20th September 2007. However in between I will post them on the website for you. It is important that the website it kept up to date with what is going on in your circle.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking you for voting for me in Cardiff and I look forward to visiting you over the next 3 years.

Yours In Friendship

**Lynda Wieland
National Vice President
2007-2008**



Lynda Wieland

Get Fresh with Wensleydale Ladies Circle

This was a great talking point on our t-shirts, when we were serving refreshments, biscuits and of course WENSLEYDALE FRUIT CAKE & CHEESE!

The event was the Food & Drink Festival held in Leyburn, Yorkshire. After serving people over the full 3 day event we made an amazing £2,500 profit.

Donations will be given to the local hospital, air ambulance and local community clubs. Wensleydale Ladies Circle Chairman Lyn Holmes, had done a fabulous job of making sure everything went smoothly. What a great start to the year!



Torquay take on Royal Marines Commando Challenge

The Royal Marines open their training course for a weekend each year for teams to test their endurance and fitness on this physical challenge. Five of us from Torquay decided to enter, and it turned out to be an amazing experience.

The course is certainly challenging, we had to crawl through streams, wade through rivers, there were pitch black tunnels, hills to run up and so much mud. The ultimate challenge was total submersion in a tunnel full of muddy water. We all managed to complete this.

It was certainly the least glamorous event I have taken part in with Circle, but we had a great day, raised money for charity and of course there were plenty of Royal Marines organising the event!

Helen Addison, Torquay 81



Before



After

Stourbridge Ladies Circle Farewell Charity Evening Thursday 22nd March 2007

The Stourbridge girls intended to retire from Circle with one final charity bash. Sixty Circlers, past Circlers and guests enjoyed a fabulous meal at the Granary Restaurant nr Kidderminster. The roll call included an impressive number of past Stourbridge Chairman's who came for this final event.

This was followed by the speaker, Mary Jo Stafford talking about her book and the trials and tribulations of writing memoirs. The proceeds from the evening, £481, was donated to the 'Little Hearts Matter' charity, which provide support, information and advice to families with children that have been born with only half a functioning heart.

Stourbridge Ladies Circle may be closing but Circle will be continuing in the area under a new Circle - Stourbridge & District.



OBITUARIES

Iris Hirst

It is with great sadness that Hebden Bridge & District 190 announce the loss of Iris Hirst, who died September 16, 2006 at St. James Hospital Leeds after a short illness aged 79 years. Iris was a Tangent Club member after following a very happy and active time in Ladies Circle. In 1966-67, Iris became Area 3 Chairman (then known as Whitaker). At her funeral service, son Richard spoke about her time with Ladies circle, always fundraising, a house full of friends, hard working but enjoying every minute.

My personal memory of Iris will be a sociable, pleasant and determined lady who continued to support Hebden Bridge LC and its members when she could.

Goodnight and God bless.

Janine Kaye, Area 3 Chairman & Hebden Bridge LC

Liz Lipka

It is with great sadness that Amersham Ladies Circle announces the death of Liz Lipka, Immediate Past Chairman, on 17 September 2006 after a long and brave fight against breast cancer.

Liz joined Circle in 1999 having just moved to Amersham, and had the 'misfortune' to meet a few of us on a school sponsored walk and from then on Liz was a Circler. She held the positions of Circle Secretary and Circle Treasurer twice (she was a tax consultant so was good with numbers) before becoming our Vice-Chairman, which was when she discovered that she had breast cancer. However, typical of Liz, she managed to complete her role as Vice-Chairman and Chairman whilst undergoing treatment. The last active role in Circle she undertook was in July 2006, when she spent all day in the tea tent collecting money at Amersham Round Table's annual Charity Carnival.

Liz was a remarkable woman as a Circler, wife and mother, who will be sadly missed by all who knew her. It was a pleasure to have called her a friend.

Karen Sprod, Amersham LC Chairman (Area 43)

Diane Dean

It is with huge sadness that I write of the death of Diane Dean. Diane was an active member of Elland Ladies Circle for several years. She and I joined Area 3 exec together when Sheila Whitham became Area Chairman in 1992. During her time on exec Diane took the jobs of Community Service, Sales and Treasurer. She and Alan were regular National Conference "goers"; Diane attended at least one International Conference and again with Alan was a great supporter of Area Rally. At the same time that we joined exec we also were both members of Area 9 Rally committee and Diane and Alan did Rally Chairman for Howard Dean in 1993-94.

I understand from Alan that Diane was a reluctant Circler in the early days but certainly by the time that I met her all that had changed and Circle and Table was a huge part of her life. She was a firm believer that the more you put in to Circle the more you got out and her attitude rubbed off on those around her. She was always the first to offer bacon sandwiches back at their house after an Elland Christmas Supper and if ever you lost her she was generally to be found having a sneaky cigarette and a good old gossip outside the back door.

Diane died of a very aggressive breast cancer; she was only 52 and Stuart and I together with many others have lost a dear friend. Our thoughts are with Alan and their sons James and Matthew.

Libby Wigglesworth - Past Area Chairman

Designer Dresses with a twist!

The Area Challenge took place last October outside Edinburgh. Circles from Falkirk, Edinburgh City, Dunbar, Linlithgow and Peebles were represented. The winner receives a "gonk" hence the name "Gonk Night Challenge" and in the past there have been various things done for this eg. pop quiz, games night etc. As last year's meeting was near to Halloween one of our members (Morag Phillips) came up with the idea of costumes and something to be able to be produced on the night. We supplied bin bags of different colours, sellotape and scissors, the rest was up to each Circles imagination. We asked the hotel staff to judge their favourite design and the winners were Linlithgow and Peebles who had teamed up as they only had one member there from each Circle. It was a bit different and fun!!

Mhairi Maxwell, Area 41 Chairman & Falkirk LC



CARDIFF CONFERENCE 2007

First the Business which was fun

We all assembled, the Cardiff team had worked really hard, but numbers for conference were noticeably down. The AGM however, was well attended and we appeared to get the right mixture of laughter, tears and seriousness – An emotional roller coaster that finished in good time!

Congratulations to all involved and congratulations to those that walked away with a trophy.

Area Sales – highest Sales was won by Area 4 and highest sales per capita was won by Area 17.

CRUK trophies – most fun/novel way was won by Whitley Bay 121 and the most money raised for CRUK was awarded to Maidenhead Circle.

The most money raised for any charity was won by Harpenden Ladies Circle who also walked off with the membership trophy for inducting (and paying capitation for) 12 new members.

The Circle with the highest percentage increase, 550% in fact, was Seaford and Newhaven increasing from 2 members to 13.

The Best Area Magazine was won by Area 28, the best article/media coverage by Turriff and District and the best web site was Whittlesey and District.

The new side by side trophy was won by Jennie Griffiths, Area 30 and the Anthony Nolan was won by Claire Smith Area 25

Congratulations to the girls who stood for office your new National Executive consists of Michelle, Lynda, Niki, Naomi, Gill, Trudy and Mandy. By the time you read this hopefully we will have a new membership officer too.

I was proud to handover cheques for £28040 to CRUK and with Claire Smith's presentation of £2860.71 on the day, meant NALC raised a massive £20140 for DebRA. Thank you all!

I hope those that spread their wings to join in the fun enjoyed themselves. To those who attended their first AGM, I hope you will join us again next year. To those of you who have never been, you really don't know what you're missing and to you the hardened conference goers – Leeds 2008 is really not one to be missed!

See you in Leeds if not before!

Mandy (IPP)



CARDIFF CONFERENCE 2007

Then the fun with some business

Thursday night - International "Late" Lunch.



Two International Presidents.

Friday morning - Started early for National President Mandy - She t'eed the golf off for the men whilst the rest of the exec were enjoying a different tea back in the hotel.



Friday evening - What a Ball.



At the start of Friday evening the Round table and Ladies Circle signed the contract for the move of NALC into Marchesi House.



Saturday night - What a Party!



Circlers and Tablers from around the world.



Area 1 Social – @ Wensleydale! What can I say !suolubaF



An excellent night hosted by the Wensleydale girls, with the theme of Back to Front! We started with coffee, followed by deserts (which I ate with my starter knife and fork!) and then went into the quiz. Sue took us through the quiz and guess what, we had to guess the questions to the answers!

Our meal continued and Freda entertained us by taking us through a fun auction; eggs, handy man, hosted evening and a sack of potatoes were on offer. Even the raffle had a twist to it, but I'll let someone else explain that!

The speeches were interesting, thanking us for coming at the beginning and wishing us an enjoyable evening at the end!

I'm glad the Hartlepool girls got the trays of eggs home in one piece! What a great night Wensleydale.

Sue Umpleby, Area 1 Chairman

Beetle Driving in Area 4

On Monday 19th February Area 4 held there Annual Area Challenge, this year hosted by Bromsgrove LC. The event was a very entertaining and fun Beetle Drive, this was held at the Bromsgrove Rovers, Victoria Club. The event was very popular and was attended by over 50 circlers from Area 4. As well as the Beetle Drive we had the pleasure of entertaining Maria Vonwurtzbach from Cancer Research UK and Vicky Savage from Race For Life who along with Coleshill & Sutton won the Beetle Drive Quiz and also Kayla Norman this years National CMLO.

The event was a huge success and everyone had a fantastic time especially Droitwich LC who after fierce competition and a semi final with Moseley became the victors of the night, here they are shown with there lucky beetle.

If anyone would like to hold a Beetle Drive of there own for more info on how its done, or the possibility of hiring the "Beetles" please contact Bromsgrove LC for more details.



Youngest Circler finds fun @ Priory LC!

Priory Ladies Circle now has not only the youngest Circle member in Area 30 but the youngest in the country, as Jade Sage was inducted by Mandy Vines the National President. Jade has grown up with Round Table and Ladies Circle but it has never been forced on her, but she really likes the friendship and fundraising and has always been impressed by the fun activities that she has seen and taken part in. Jade has several friends who are nearly 18 that are also interested in Ladies Circle so lets hope that this is the start of a new generation of Ladies Circle members.

Jade and Mandy after her induction.



Handy Hints for Charity Quizzes!

In November, Kidderminster LC raised £247 for the Meningitis Research Foundation by organising a Nostalgia Quiz at Stourport Boat Club. A local rock band 'Identity Crisis' played music from the 60's, 70's and 80's. It certainly was a great night out!

Here are some of our helpful suggestions for a successful quiz night:

- Keep it simple
- Teamwork – get everyone involved!
- Sell tickets in advance
- Raffle – donated prizes from local business always make a great raffle – novel way of selling tickets "beer glass full of money down the cleavage was a novel way of attracting attention!"
- Venue – choose the right venue, this could make or break a night!
- Microphone – definitely needed as pubs are loud and noisy
- No quibbling with the Quiz Master!
- Lots of prizes for winning & losing teams
- Always say 'Thank You'

Alaine Sheppard, Kidderminster LC Chairman

St. Patrick Celebrations with Bilston!

The Bilston girls provided a night of fun and live 'entertainment' The fabulous Irish band the girls had booked following last years success were double booked so the entertainment agency offer another band and a night filled with 'fun and frivolity'. They were so awful they were hilarious! I haven't laughed so much in ages. There was a fabulous buffet and a whopping £550 was raised on the night for their charity the Green Park School – a school for children with special needs.

Vicky Perry, Area 27 Chairman



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