

# Friends of Sangam (UK)

Newsletter – Spring, 2019



FoS (UK) is a UK-registered charity: 1077376

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## The Editor Writes

*Namaste!*

This is a much fuller Newsletter, than last time, I'm delighted to say – but most of the items included have, once again, come from the trustees.

Please don't be shy. Send me any items for inclusion in the next edition, **by 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2019**, please (and, ideally, much sooner, so I have plenty of time to get things ready for the printers).

Don't miss the deadline for booking this year's Gathering, at Hautbois! The form is in this Newsletter – together with the minutes from last year's AGM.

*Tina Powell*

## From the Chairman

The FOS (UK) Trustees have recently had their Spring Meeting, with reports and our annual financial account for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018. Diane Davies continues to lead our trading promotion and PR, as she attends so many Girlguiding and Trefoil events. The Trustees have agreed to send £2000 to Sangam and this will be the first donation received towards their new Solar Power fund.

Following the request in the Autumn Newsletter there was only one nomination for a new Trustee to join the committee after the next Annual Meeting (AM), namely Trish Halmshaw, who is, therefore, elected, unopposed (and who will resign as President, at the same time). Christine Doughty has agreed to undertake a second term of three more years as a trustee starting after the same meeting. My own term as Chairman finishes then. I do hope that a great number of you will be able to attend the AM in September at Hautbois. This year we are also inviting young people from Girlguiding and so fun and promotion of Sangam will be at the forefront.

Best Wishes to you all.

*Victoria Bagshaw*

## A Memory of Jean Cooper

Jean, a member of Friends of Sangam (UK) since 1986, died just before Christmas and will be sadly missed. She did sterling work fundraising for FoS, running the trading for many years. She was my patrol leader, on my first visit to Sangam, with Margaret Wellock in 2000 and was a very supportive, caring 'Mother Hen', who showed us how to control a room full of SOS village children with a few Indian words, "bas" being one that sticks in my memory. I think it meant, "enough" - but it certainly calmed the room!

*Gill Shepherd*

## A Few Words From the President



Welcome to your Spring Newsletter!

We have just had a productive Trustees meeting. Amongst other things, we arranged to send to Sangam another substantial amount of money raised by FOS UK members, funds to further support and promote our home in India.

We also marked the end of an era – Jen Barron ends her time as Manager at Sangam, as I write this message. We wish her “Phir Milenge!” We send her thanks and best wishes for the future. She has made a magnificent contribution to the life of Sangam.

Her replacement – Michelle Hughes – is from the UK. She worked as a Programme Assistant with me at Sangam in 1999/2000. She certainly understands the Sangam Spirit. We wish her well as she prepares to re-join the Sangam staff.

I do hope many of you will come to the Gathering at Hautbois this September – I look forward to catching up with you all then.

*Trish Halmshaw*

## Sangam Update

*Jen Barron finished, as World Centre Manager, on 12<sup>th</sup> March (but will return to Sangam, during April, for a face-to-face handover, with her successor).*

5<sup>th</sup> March, 2019.

Dear Friends,

The big news was sent to you all, yesterday, about my WCM replacement. I'm sure many of you will know Michelle. She is very excited to come to Sangam and will do a great job, as she was a volunteer under Margo's leadership. I'm counting on FoS (UK)'s continued support of Sangam under Michelle's leadership, as well. Here's why we need you:

We continue to see a downturn in bed nights.

2015	6,536
2016 ( <i>Birthday year</i> )	7,166
2017	5,849
2018	5,204
2019 ( <i>predicted</i> )	5,522

We need your support in terms of promotion of opportunities at Sangam, as well as encouraging people to donate to the Sangam Sisterhood Scholarship Fund.

The World Centres must stand alone, financially – and Sangam just broke even, in 2018, and we are predicting to do the same in 2019 and 2020, but this is only possible due to the continued support of groups like yours.

In terms of property needs, we are about to have a couple of really big expenses. The electricity company has just raised its tariff and so we are looking at installing solar across the property, for all our electricity needs (not just hot water). Also, many of you know that a portion of the wall, on the campsite, is falling into

the river. The team is designing a campaign to “sell” portions of the wall, so that this project could be achieved.

On a personal note, I would like to thank all of you for your dedication and for your friendship. I couldn't have walked this road without you all. As I continue to say, I'm not leaving Sangam, or India – just this role, as WCM. Will see you all at Sangam, I'm sure as #sangamwebelong.

*Jen Barron – former-World Centre Manager*

## **Membership Update**

It is important that you keep us updated of your contact details - both postal and email address - as I have had several items 'bounce' back and three 'Return to Sender' Newsletters after the last two mailings. Also, it would be helpful if you could let me know if you are going to cancel your Standing Order. Several of the people on the 'Suspended' list are SO members and I will be removing them shortly from the database.

I would like to thank all those members who have recently upgraded their subscription and added their membership number to their bank reference for example mine is [389Gillian Mary Shepherd]. Your number is printed on your address label, if you have a hard copy or if I haven't as yet emailed it to you it is one of my ongoing tasks and you will be hearing from me soon.

There are still over 30 members who have not updated their subscription from £5 or £7 to **£10** which was the minimum amount set in 2014. With the recent 3p increase in postage this means that their subscription barely covers the production and delivery of two newsletters a year. I am pleased to say that after every mailing when all with email have received that version I have had a couple of people changing from postal to email. It would be good if all were able to upgrade to £10 as well.

Thank you for helping us to keep supporting Sangam.

*Gill Shepherd – Membership Secretary*

## **The Story of Sangam, 1966 – 2016**

The writing group (Liz Aveston, Margaret Wellock, Jenny Davies, Liz Rothwell and myself) thought it would be interesting for you to know how much has been raised to date through sales of our book. Amazingly, it is £3,170, with all publishing costs covered. Some money has gone to The Sangam Sisterhood Scholarship Fund, whilst other money used for work on the drains and tidying up the electric cables on the roofs. All money well spent!

As you know there are always projects in Sangam that require funding. We still have books available & they are now reduced to £4! Have you got your copy? Can you help to sell books in other UK countries and Regions that haven't seen them? Help spread the inspirational Sangam story – we need to sell approximately 100 books which could give another £400 to improve something in Sangam that would benefit everyone.

Contact Liz Aveston (eMail: [lizaveston@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:lizaveston@tiscali.co.uk)) or Tina Powell for books.

Don't delay, buy today!!!! Many thanks.

*Jane Smart*

## Money Matters

I have been Treasurer for Friends of Sangam (U.K.) for several years and my time as Trustee will finish in September 2020 when I shall no longer be eligible to act as Treasurer. It is not a difficult rôle and whoever takes it on does not need to be an accountant or have other financial expertise. Please could you think about doing this important task. It is a great joy to be able to send large amounts of money to Sangam when there is sufficient money in the account to respond to requests for particular projects. You can contact any of the Trustees if you feel you could take on the challenge next year or get in touch with me for more details.

Can I also ask that if you make a deposit to the FoS Account any time that you let the Treasurer know what the deposit is for. We have had several amounts of money appear on the Bank Statements paid in in Northampton and are unable to allocate them to the appropriate heading .The Bank will not tell me who has made the deposits and we may be asking people for subscriptions when they have in fact already paid. Gill Shepherd cannot find suitable members to whom we can allocate the amounts we have received.

*Anne Allery - Treasurer*

## Friends of Maher UK trip to India, October, 2018

When I heard that Rosemary and John were planning a trip to India to work at Maher I was excited at the possibility of a return trip, having been there previously in 2006. After a year of planning meetings (and varying experiences of obtaining a visa) a group of 10 people from Yorkshire met at Rosemary and John's house in Tadcaster at lunchtime on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October. Some of the group knew each other well, some were new friends and, being Guiders, we quickly made a great team! A coach took us to Heathrow airport in good time despite a diversion onto the M40 due to problems on the M1. A lady from our church is a stewardess with BA and arranged to be on our flight. She brought us pink champagne and looked after us well throughout the flight.

### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> Oct

We landed at Mumbai at 10.45am and enjoyed the warmth if not the humidity, that hit us as we emerged from the plane. A minibus met us and we loaded our cases onto the back seats and set off for Pune through the sprawling mass and chaotic traffic of Mumbai. We climbed up through the Western Ghats and arrived at Sangam by late afternoon. Some enjoyed a swim in the new pool before the evening meal.

### Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October

After breakfast we headed off to Maher in rickshaws. Everywhere is dusty, noisy with loads of rubbish lining the streets, some of it on fire. There are fewer potholes (but more speed bumps), fewer cattle on the streets but a lot more apartment blocks (many unfinished due to running out of money) than on my last visit. After a hot and bone shaking hour and a half we arrived at Maher, to the usual warm welcome. We enjoyed the first of many cups of chai followed by a welcome ceremony and songs from the children. We went to look at the painting they wanted us to do then it was time for lunch – lovely chapattis, rice, dahl and veg curries. We were lucky to meet Sister Lucy as she was leaving for a month long lecture tour of North America the next day (if her visa and passport arrived in time, which it did 3 hours before she left!). We went up to Production where they make crafts to sell. We all brought things for ourselves as well as items to take back to sell in the UK. We got back to Sangam in time for chai and a swim. After dinner we enjoyed the first of many of Robert's quizzes.

### Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October

The plan for today was to buy the paint and craft materials we needed for Maher. Unfortunately the paint shop opposite Sangam has closed. We set off in rickshaws again for MG Road, first stop Baristas for a coffee, followed by lunch at The Coffee House. As it was Emma's first time in India she had the paper dosa, nearly wider than the table! We bought some brass ornaments for ourselves and to sell at the handicrafts shop then headed to Mr Singh's the tailors for punjabis. We bought bangles to make dream catchers and the entire stock of pegs from the supermarket for whizzers! Once we got back to Sangam we were busy preparing the crafts for the house mothers for the next 3 days – knitted owls, friendship bracelets and dream catchers.

### Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October

The best laid plans ... don't work in India! As today is the first day of the Navrati festival, the women were cooking and the children were off school. So, instead of doing crafts with 30 women we had 100 children to entertain with guiding songs and games. The painting team finally managed to buy some paint on Nager Road, near Maher so they could make a start on the gates.

After lunch we were all painting, in the hot sun. Some of us were painting the steps of the outside stage orange, white and green, the colours of the India flag. In the evening we had our Welcome ceremony from the Sangam staff.

### Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> October

3 of us did a pre-breakfast yoga session this morning. We finally got to start the crafts at Maher this morning and continued painting the stage steps in the afternoon. We had a meal out in the evening, at the Chinese Rooms on MG Road, some had a very sizzling chocolate brownie!

### Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October

We made dream catchers with the house mothers this morning and then played parachute games. More step painting in the afternoon. In the evening we prepared crafts for the children for the weekend.

### Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October

Best laid plans, again! We were expecting to do crafts and games with the children this morning but they were at school. So we had extra planning time instead. The children came back about 12 o'clock, eating a packed lunch – a (melted) dairy milk bar followed by a pakora sandwich. There was time to do a few games and make the peg whizzers before our lunch and we carried on with games in the afternoon, including skipping which they loved. In the evening we went to a restaurant with Prianka, Naimala (who used to work at Sangam) and her daughter Myra.

### Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October

Rosemary and Wendy taught First Aid to the college students this morning. Best laid plans ... again. We started our planned activities with the children this morning (spiral snakes) then some children from a local school came for a visit with their teachers, including one who is a magician. He did a magic show for an hour, all the children (there must have been 100) sat beautifully throughout. He then explained the science behind the tricks to teach the children not to be taken in by superstition, rife in India.

### Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October

After breakfast we had rickshaw driving lessons in Sangam's grounds, great fun. Best laid plans... We were due to visit Laxmi Road today to see the markets but it was closed. 4 of us went by rickshaw to Pataleshwar Cave Temple. In the afternoon we prepared for the party at Maher tomorrow – making paper chains, and a 'pin the tail on the elephant'. Wendy made a pass the parcel with toiletries we had collected and some bangles. In the evening we had a meal at a rooftop restaurant on the IBM building. This was a side of India I had not experienced before, a very modern, clean, luxurious western style business district. My dessert was served with dry ice streaming out to keep it cool!

### Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October

Today was Sangam's 52<sup>nd</sup> birthday! We went to the temple next door for a blessing before breakfast, when we got back to Sangam there was another blessing ceremony at the entrance, which had been decorated with a beautiful Rangoli pattern. We sang Happy Birthday in several languages. When we got to Maher we were delighted to meet Mangesh, one of the group who had visited Yorkshire 10 years ago. He was amazed to see us too, as he didn't know we were there. He has been to university and travels around India spreading the message of Maher. The house mothers enjoyed the party and the cake Sangam made them. There was also a party at Sangam in the evening, in the garden with food from the 5 World Centres and a live Facebook link up. Terabi was there, who worked at Sangam when it opened. The local guides were doing mehndi for us. We finished with some camp fire singing. The pool area was lit with multi coloured lights and the topiary elephants and hearts had even had a trim for the occasion.

### Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October

After breakfast we set off for Mumbai, in an air conditioned bus, a novel experience for us in India. Lots of roadside marigold stalls for the festival. We arrived at our hotel, the Ambassador in time for lunch. Some of us went for a walk on Marine Drive in the afternoon, very hot, humid and hazy with pollution. There were lots of young people around, all very friendly and wanting selfies with us.

### Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October

We all went out in a fleet of (air con) taxis to see the sights – a Jain Temple, Hanging Gardens on Malabar Hill, the largest laundry in the world, the spice market, Victoria Railway Station and the Gateway of India. We had afternoon tea with Mangesh as he was in Mumbai helping some girls from Maher get their visa to study at American universities. In the evening we ate at a Chinese restaurant a few doors down from our hotel, but had to borrow umbrellas from them to get back as there was a huge thunderstorm.

#### Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October

Some of us went to Mani Bhavan, Gandhi's house and Khotachi Wadi, an old Portuguese street followed by coffee at the Starbucks at the Taj Mahal hotel. In the afternoon I went to the Prince of Wales museum, a beautiful Indo-British building full of wonderful artefacts. For our last evening in India we went to a lovely Indian restaurant near the hotel and afterwards enjoyed views of Marine Drive by night – 'The Queen's Necklace'.

#### Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October

After breakfast we set off in taxis to the airport, over a new sea bridge, several kilometres long. We had time for a spot of last minute shopping at the airport before our flight. As it wasn't full Joanne and I were upgraded to Club, thanks to our friend the stewardess! We landed at Heathrow on time at 6pm, were met by our coach and got back to Tadcaster by 11pm. All our experiences in India seemed like a dream now, hopefully some of us will be lucky enough to return sometime.

*Penny Pinn*

## **Annual Gathering, Hautbois Activity Centre, Norwich, 2019**



We have booked the whole house for the weekend of 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> September and look forward to seeing many of you there. The accommodation is designed for youth groups in 11 rooms but none are single; some have bunk beds with very good head room. We can sleep 39 in lower bunks or single beds. Most rooms have en suite facilities, two or three have adjacent showers and toilets. All rooms have tea-making facilities, bedding is provided and you make up your bed on arrival and strip it before leaving. You will also need to bring a towel.



**Alternatively**, you can bring your tent (campers are welcome) or there is also the 'Reed Cutters Village' with a marquee for their use. We hope to be using some of these cabins and holding Indian activities for local Units as well as our members in the adjacent marquee. Those using these facilities will need to bring

bedding and a light but will be fully catered for in the house and/or the adjacent marquee.

**Or** come as a Day visitor 10.30am – 4.00pm.

The new County archive centre across the road will be open for us to visit on Saturday.

We hope to be welcoming local units and Trefoil Guilds for the Saturday too and sharing our enthusiasm for India and Sangam with them and maybe enrolling more members.

If you are willing to help run an activity please contact one of the trustees who will be delighted to hear from you.

Hautbois is in Coltishall a short distance from Wroxham (which is a popular Norfolk Broads boating centre). Sandringham and the Norfolk coast are within easy reach, too. If you would like to extend your stay to explore this lovely area you can arrange this directly with the centre.

Campers will pay £60; Reed Cutter Village, £80; a bed in the house, £100. This includes activity materials, all meals and refreshments from 4pm Friday until 2pm Sunday, after a light lunch

A Day Visitor, 10.30am – 4pm pays £15, to include activity materials, a light Lunch, tea and coffee.

*Gill Shephard*

## FoS (UK) ANNUAL GATHERING at HAUTOBOIS 20th-22nd September 2019 -

### Booking Form

to be returned to Gill Shepherd, 73, Springfield Road, Southwell, NG25 0BS with a non-refundable deposit of £20 **by 15<sup>th</sup> May**. Balance of £40/£60/£80 by July 1st.

**\*Delete as appropriate.**

Please print clearly your name and membership number (if known)

.....would like to have \*a bed in the house/\*a bunk in the Reed Cutter's village/\*a place on a camp site.

I wish to share with..... I \*can/\*cannot manage stairs

Your address.....

Email address.....telephone number.....

Have you any special physical or dietary needs.....

I enclose a cheque for £        made out to FOS(UK).

I expect to travel by road/rail *please circle*

Further information from [gill@shepherdathome.com](mailto:gill@shepherdathome.com)     *For a receipt, please enclose a SAE.*

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## FoS (UK) ANNUAL GATHERING at HAUTOBOIS, 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2019

### - Day Visitors Booking Form

to be returned to Gill Shepherd, 73, Springfield Road, Southwell, NG25 0BS, **by 15<sup>th</sup> May**.

Please print clearly your name and membership number (if known)

.....would like to attend the F.O.S. taste of India Day, from 10.30am – 4pm.

Your address.....

Email address.....telephone number.....

Have you any special physical or dietary needs.....

**I enclose a cheque for £15, made out to FOS(UK).**

Further information from [gill@shepherdathome.com](mailto:gill@shepherdathome.com)     *For a receipt, please enclose a SAE*

# **Friends of Sangam (UK) Annual Meeting**

## **Adelphi Hotel , Liverpool, September 15<sup>th</sup> 2018**

### **1. Welcome**

Trish Halmshaw as President welcomed those present and said that we would hear what FoS(UK) had done during the past year, and what is in store for the future.

### **2. Present**

Trish Halmshaw (president), Victoria Bagshaw (chair), Anne Allery (treasurer), Hilary Taylor (secretary), Christine Doughty, Trish Robinson ,Gill Shepherd, Rachel Smith and Susan Westwood (trustees) and members.

### **3. Apologies**

Margaret Horseman (vice-president) and Alison Lund (trustee)

### **4. Minutes of the last Annual meeting held at Birmingham**

These have been distributed to all members and the meeting agreed that they were a correct record and they were signed as correct by Victoria Bagshaw.

### **5. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising which are not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

### **6. Correspondence**

A letter from Jen Barron was summarised and left available for those present to see. Following the Skype "hook up" with Jen earlier it was noted that the two requests were for donations for the upgrade of the ablution block on the campsite (£2000) and for new UPS batteries (£3000).

### **7. Annual report – Victoria Bagshaw.**

This is my report for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017 – already nearly a year away. Please do remember that FoS (UK) belongs to you all and it is up to you to nominate new trustees and suggest and arrange new venues for our Annual meeting. Last year we were grateful to Anne Allery and Susan Westwood who agreed to be re-elected as trustees. There were no other nominations.

Recent changes in Charity Law have necessitated certain changes to the wording of our constitution.

Following advice from Christine Doughty at executive meetings in 2017 the proposed amendments were printed in our Spring 2018 newsletter. These will be put to members at this meeting in Liverpool for ratification before being forwarded to the Charity Commission.

It is wonderful to hear from our members how they have been busy at various Guiding events encouraging people to visit and support Sangam. Special thanks go to Diane Davies who has continued to attend various gatherings to promote and fundraise for our Indian home. In 2017 there were a number of visits by UK participants and Gill Shepherd continued to encourage new members to join FoS (UK). Thank you to those who went on to share their experiences with us by sending articles to Tina Powell for our newsletter. In 2017 WAGGGS reorganised the way in which our World Centres are managed. This included changes to the structures of various Friends groups. There is now no longer a FoS (Europe) group or a FoS (International) group. Thank you to Becky Hinton and Tina Powell for their work as chairs of Europe and International respectively.

In August (2017) there was the introduction of special Friends' metal badges for anyone donating £40 or more to Sangam. The initial donation must be made whilst staying at Sangam. (Donations made before August 2017 do not count). The colour of these badges relate to the cumulative donations. These can include FoS(UK) subscriptions and other donations made to Sangam through WAGGGS.

Thank you to Anne Allery for keeping our own finances in good order. I am delighted to report that we sent £8,000 to Sangam from the 2017 accounts. Sangam needed a new washing machine and a new freezer. We also asked that £3000 should go to the Sister Scholarship Fund and £1000 for painting and bed linen. In August 2018 our donation was used to update the computer system, including a back-up of the server on the cloud.

Our annual Gathering last year was in Birmingham. There was a traditional Sangam welcome ceremony for the 60 ladies attending, activities, fundraising stalls, a raffle, dancing and a lunch.

I was delighted to hear that both Tina Powell and Hilary Taylor were able to accept invitations to the World Conference in Delhi last autumn and enjoyed such an amazing experience which was superbly organized by Jen Barron and her team. (Hilary's report was in our Spring 2018 newsletter). Jen still remains as centre manager at Sangam, but this is not full time as much of her job is working in other roles for WAGGGS. Jen was presented with her membership of the Olave Baden-Powell Society (OBPS) by Princess Benedikte at the World Conference.

Sangam continues to provide a full programme of activities and promotes "Shala" - its own fitness centre. The Tare programme is working well. Thank you all for your support – especially the committee. Please continue to promote this wonderful resource – Sangam our special World Centre. If any of you visit Sangam or other parts of India please do bring back items for us to sell.

## 8. Financial Report – Anne Allery

Treasurer's report for year ended December 31<sup>st</sup> 2017 presented showing receipt and payment accounts and a statement of total assets.

### Income

The subscriptions are variable depending on where we are in the 5 year cycle. This shows an increase of £723 over last year's figure.

Donations are very much higher than last year. There have been several large donations from Trefoil Guilds around the country. Many of received money after giving talks about Sangam to all sorts of organizations. Many trustees have returned travelling expenses and several members have filled the tubes with 20 pence pieces which is an easy way of donating.

The income from the Sangam Challenge badges is down, but income from Junior badges and Golden Challenge badges has increased.

The figure for trading is lower, mainly due to the fact that there was no large event like the Junior Friends of Sangam day in 2016. Diane Davies continues to take Sangam goods to many events and is mainly responsible for the Trading figure.

Due to the different format for the Gathering in 2017 the profit was much lower. The day in Birmingham was very successful as far as the number attending and it was a good public relations day.

The accounts show one payment of Gift Aid which had not been claimed for some years. Thanks to Gill and Tina who worked very hard for this result.

### Expenses

Travelling expenses appear to be much higher but several trustees very kindly return their expenses as donations which is reflected in the increased donation figure.

The stationery figure covers several new cartridges which were purchased.

The newsletter printing appears to be more expensive. This is because three editions were produced in 2017 and only one in 2016. Postage shows an increase for the same reason.

There was no outlay for badges as a large stock was held from the previous year.

Several small amounts are shown for photocopying, website fee and lunch ingredients for the Trustees' meeting.

£8,000 was sent to Sangam.

### Summary

A deficit of £501.29 will be carried forward to the 2018 accounts.

### Income and expenses account for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2017 (£)</u>	<u>2016 (£)</u>
Subscriptions	4245.00	3522.07
Donations	2230.68	465.15
Junior badges	27.00	0.00
Sangam Challenge badges	166.20	251.60
Golden Challenge badges	393.00	96.50
Trading	846.40	1217.23
Fundraising	833.05	545.20
Gathering 2017	761.30	5266.00
Gift Aid	501.41	576.13
Junior FoS	0.00	1033.00
Interest	0.37	1.04
<u>Total</u>	<u>10004.41</u>	<u>12973.92</u>

### EXPENSES

Travel	763.97	225.80
Postage	18.60	7.44
Stationery	123.42	29.97
Photocopying	51.20	5.25
Sangam	8000.00	4620.00
Newsletter printing	406.00	142.00
Newsletter postage	415.00	117.44
Badges	0.00	1049.88
Trading	234.73	75.42
Gathering 2017	239.11	3737.95
Gathering 2018	200.00	44.80
Miscellaneous	53.67	87.08

Website fee	36.00	
Junior FoS	0.00	652.99
Returned cheque	10.00	
<u>Total</u>	<u>10505.70</u>	<u>10796.02 DEFICIT</u>
	<u>501.29</u>	
<u>SURPLUS</u>		<u>2177.90</u>

<u>STATEMENT OF ASSETS</u>	<u>(£)</u>
General account from 2016	8822.99
Deficit	501.29
<u>Balance</u>	<u>8321.70</u>
<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>	
Current Account	6200.34
Business Saver Account	2121.70
<u>Total</u>	<u>8321.70</u>

The Independent Examiner's report on the accounts was signed by S P Hall on 03.08.18

### **Interim financial report January 2018 to September 2018**

Subscriptions to date are £885 lower than for the year ended December 2017. Donations are over £937 thanks to several trustees returning their expenses. Sale of badges brought in £355.50. Trading brought in £403.75 and Fundraising £553.22. Receipts for the Gathering are £930. Margaret Wellock had her annual coffee morning which raised £310. This makes a total income of £6540. We sent £4000 to Sangam in March. Travel expenses were approximately £300. The newsletter cost £164. Postage for newsletters came to £168. Cartridges cost £72.94, badges were £257.17. Items for Trading were £345.32, advance payments for the 2018 Gathering were £657.50 and the cheque for £150 to Danse Sansaar, which was an expense for the Gathering, was replaced. Miscellaneous items covering the fee for the website, the lunch for the Trustees and the Examiner's honorarium totalled £105.95. Total expenses were £6220.68. Excess of income over expenditure £319.74

#### **9. Adoption of reports**

Alison Beacom seconded the adoption of the Annual and Financial Reports and the meeting voted unanimously in favour.

#### **10. Appointment of Examiner – Anne Allery.**

Anne Allery proposed that Sara Hall be re-appointed as Independent Examiner. The meeting voted unanimously in favour.

#### **11. Election of Trustees – Hilary Taylor**

It should be noted that Victoria Bagshaw will end her second three year term of office and therefore we will need a new chair. Gill Shepherd will also complete her second three year term, while Trish Robinson will complete her first three year term. Please think of anyone who would like to be nominated. Forms are available and the information will be in the next newsletter.

#### **12. Reports**

##### **a. Newsletter – Tina Powell**

Trish Halmshaw encouraged members to send in items for the newsletter to Tina Powell, with the cut-off date being September 30<sup>th</sup>. Members were asked to advise Gill Shepherd if they would like to receive an emailed copy instead of a hard copy.

##### **b. Fundraising and Trading – Diane Davies**

###### **Trading report 2017**

Another busy year with the trading stall and PR attending County Guiding events, county and Region Trefoil Guild meetings and units across all age groups. The people who visited the stall have supported well and we have chatted to groups and individuals going to Sangam in 2018. It was the first year we attended the fabulous Wellies and Wristbands event for Guides and Senior Section at Waddow Hall in August. We never stopped and the girls and leaders visited the tent many times to spend their money and learn about a World Centre (lots had never heard of World Centres) and what we do in Sangam.

We started to visit local units offering our own Sangam Experience with crafts, songs, food, and games, and have enthused lots of groups to consider Sangam in the future. The Midlands International Day always give us a warm welcome, and support well with two further visits to Shropshire County as they prepared to visit Sangam in August 2018.

The elephant candles and lights have been very popular as well as the Christmas stockings and wardrobe hangers. As soon as I advertised the elephant necklaces and earrings, lotus bangles and Yin Yang necklaces on the Facebook page we received lots of orders.

Our Christmas tree was based on "Dumbo goes to Sangam" at Waddow's Disney-themed event.

Thank you to all members who make items for us to sell or bring Indian goods they have to spare. The

elephant cards and denim bags were sold out very quickly. Thank you to Ruth and Sylvia for their help at the different events and to the general public who have offered help as we throw 4 suitcases and bags on or off the train as we travel to some of the events. During our chats they also learn a lot about Sangam!!

Please contact me on [diane4seasons@googlemail.com](mailto:diane4seasons@googlemail.com).

### **Fundraising 2017**

Thank you to all who have worked behind the scenes raising funds for our cause. In September 2017 I introduced my elephant challenge to you and was amazed how quickly you sold the squares and sent the money into our kitty. I am aware of £125 being raised that has been passed to me.

Your challenge this year is to bake some cakes and sell to your friends and family.

Get baking.....

Please send pictures/money to :- Diane Davies, 5 Epping Close, Rainhill, Merseyside, L35 0QE.

[diane4seasons@googlemail.com](mailto:diane4seasons@googlemail.com).

### **c.Membership – Gill Shepherd**

On December 31<sup>st</sup> 2017 we had 385 fully paid up active members, 14 suspended members who still owed subscriptions and 2 anonymous donors who do not receive a newsletter.

During the year we had 10 new members.

**15<sup>th</sup> September 2018** I can confirm that today we have 339 fully paid up members and 47 suspended members.

I am pleased to see that we have a representative here today from one of our Trefoil Guild members and two Guiders representing units. These representatives can vote for their group in membership decisions.

The number of members having the email version of the newsletter has risen since we sent the last edition to every member with an email address. This year we have had so far 4 new members but we now have 83 inactive members compared to 69 last December. These are members who have died or decided to discontinue membership. After the last mailing four were "returned to sender no longer at this address". So there will be more to remove!

I challenge each one of you to try and recruit a new member before the end of the year, and if you are a Trefoil Guild persuade them to join and come to one of our Gatherings.

### **d.FoS Junior – Gill Shepherd**

Our numbers have stayed the same this year, being 36 unit members, as we gained two and lost two member units. 28 are fully paid up and 7 are suspended awaiting payment of subscriptions. The renewal offer of more ribbon badges has encouraged units to renew for five years. Two units have been visited this year and taken the opportunity to wear saris, learn Indian dance and try different crafts.

We have two units in Scotland, two in the Isle of Man, one in the South, seven in the North and North East, ten in the North West and fourteen in the Midlands.

**September 2018 update** We now have three units in the Isle of Man and an invitation to go over and take a Sangam Experience to them. I hope to be able to accept this invitation in 2019 and be able to report back at our next Gathering.

We are always glad to have suggestions for the Junior newsletters.

### **e. Publicity**

Trish Halmshaw expressed thanks to Rachel Smith for arranging for the purchase of the two banners, and it has been decided to add to these.

### **13. Revision of Constitution – Christine Doughty**

Christine Doughty explained some of the background to the changes to the constitution which are proposed. They have been circulated to all members in the last newsletter, and no adverse comments have been received. Christine therefore proposed to the meeting that they be adopted. Jane Wardropper seconded this proposal and it was carried unanimously.

**14. AOB** There was none.

### **15. Votes of thanks -Trish Halmshaw**

Trish thanked Diane Davies and her team for organising an enjoyable weekend, and thanks to all the committees and trustees. Diane Davies thanked all those who had helped with the activities and other stalls during the day. Jean Sutherland expressed thanks to Trish Halmshaw for chairing the meeting.

### **16. Date venue of 2019 AGM**

Hautbois - 20<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2019 (*this is the proposed date which will be confirmed in the near future*). The meeting closed at 15.53

### **Post meeting.**

A card expressing thanks for all her work for FoS(UK) was presented to Diane Davies by Victoria Bagshaw on behalf of the trustees.

## Contact Details for FoS (UK) Trustees, Spring, 2019

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Jen's new venture – teaching yoga, in Tasmania.