



# SILC NEWS



A publication of the Samutprakarn International Ladies Club

Dec 2015/Jan 2016

## December/January Events:

### **Olive Kebab & Café Evening**

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December

### **Christmas Lunch**

No Idea Gastro Pub – Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December

### **Coffee Morning**

Coffee Bean by Dao at EmQuartier Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January

### **Bowling Evening**

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January

### **Pot Luck Lunch**

Campton's Residence – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January

### **Khao Yai Winery Tour**

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January

We would like to wish all our members and families  
a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



# Committee Members



<u>Responsibility</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Email</u>
Chairman	Jane Campton	silcchair@gmail.com
Vice Chairman	Marit van den Oetelaar & Dianne Darke	silcvice@gmail.com
Secretary	Angelique Leijdekker	silcsecretary@gmail.com
Treasurer	Rocelyn Keilnhofer	silctreasurer@gmail.com
Coffee Mornings	Kay Hickey & Sunita Kulisra	silccoffees@gmail.com
Tours	Jimmy James & Carla Rijnders	silctour@gmail.com
Lunches	Jo Thomas & Sue Williams	silclunch@gmail.com
Membership	Sara Carr-Legg & Jeannette Rademaker	silcthai@gmail.com
Welfare Coordinator	Chris Rajakarier	silcwelfare1@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Jan Briggs	silcmagazine@gmail.com
Advertising	Jane Wise	silcadverts@gmail.com
Bazaar	Dianne Darke	silcbazaar@gmail.com
Mahjong	Sue Bailey	susanjane.bailey@yahoo.co.uk
Evening Events	Marit van den Oetelaar	silcvice@gmail.com
Craft Club	Jane Campton	silcchair@gmail.com
Book Club	Sara Carr-Legg	silcthai@gmail.com
General Committee	Cathy O'Neill, Marianne Metzelaar & Shirley Tan	



## Link Ladies



<u>Area</u>	<u>Name</u>
Garden Towers	Jan Briggs
Ladawan	Shirley Tan
Lakeside 1	Vani Sharma
Lakeside 2	Jane Wise
Thana City	Irene Gray
Bangkok Area	Chris Rajakarier



### SILC News Copy Deadline

Mon. 18th Jan. 2016 is the deadline for any articles for the February Newsletter.

If you have any recipes, book reviews, recommendations for holidays or items for our bulletin board please forward them to the Newsletter Editor:  
silcmagazine@gmail.com



# Chairman's Message



Hello Ladies,



I hope your festive plans are well underway by now- gifts bought, hotels booked and celebrations planned. I have done most of mine, the only things left are the underpants run to MBK (cheap Calvin's are on everyone's list) and tracking down a turkey, though I suspect I might have to be inventive with a chicken on that one. I'll tell them it's a free-range turkeyette and they are the in thing this year, they will never know!

I am looking forward to seeing you at our SILC celebrations. We have our Christmas Lunch on December 8<sup>th</sup> at No Idea where we be running our (in)famous gift exchange. It really is a must-where else can you behave badly and blatantly steal from your friends! Then on December 9<sup>th</sup>, it's time to give back to the local community at the Welfare Christmas Party at Mahawong Pre School. Do come and join us there; it's always fun and shhh, there might even be a visit from the man in red himself. Mail Chris if you would like to come along, the more is most definitely the merrier.

Wishing you all a fun filled festive season and health, wealth and happiness for 2016,

Jane



## Advertising



Advertisements for non-profit community events are welcome and are free of charge.

Personal Advertisements for SILC members are free of charge.

Email reminders for SILC events and non-profit community events will be sent out free of charge; other events must be advertised in our magazine.

### Rates (per issue)

**Full Page**      **1300 Baht**

**Half Page**      **700 Baht**

**Quarter Page**      **400 Baht**

**Flyer Insert**      **700 Baht**

### Discounts

**Member**      **25%**

**Annual Contract (10 adverts/year)**      **10%**

(Only one discount may be applied)

Advertising requests and payment **must** be received prior to the published deadline.

**Further details on advertising contact:** Jane Wise: silcadverts@gmail.com

**Please send advertisement to:** The Editor: Jan Briggs: silcmagazine@gmail.com

**To arrange payment contact:** The Treasurer: Rocelyn Keilnhofer

silctreasurer@gmail.com



# Aims & Policies



## Organisation of the Club

SILC creates an opportunity for women of all nationalities living in the Samutprakarn area to meet socially and participate in a variety of activities. We invite members to join monthly meetings, tours and interest groups. Members pay an annual fee of 1000 Baht to cover costs and receive a newsletter and club directory.

## Privacy

The Members Directory and addresses sourced from our legitimate club business such as Lunches or Coffee Mornings are for the sole use of members in a social setting and must not be used for commercial purposes.

## Newsletter

The newsletter is published ten times a year with articles and information on club activities. Contributions are welcome and can be sent to the newsletter editor.

## Committee Meetings

These are held once a month and are open to all members. Please inform the meeting hostess if you wish to attend.



## SILC Mahjong Group

Takes place on Wednesdays

From approx. 10.00am to 2.30pm

In members homes

Donations are appreciated towards our Welfare Charities.

Guests very welcome, 200b/session

**Contact:** Sue Bailey for more details:  
susanjane.bailey@yahoo.co.uk



# BOTOX

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# December Evening



Please join Marit for a ladies night out in December!

**When:** Thursday 3 December 2015

**Time:** 7 PM onwards

**Where:** Olive Kebab & Cafe on Ekamai (see advert below)

**Food Menu @ the price of 600 Baht net /per person**



Cheese Puffs



Spinach Puffs



Chicken Kebabs



Tzatziki Dip with Pita



Eggplant Dip with Pita



Beetroot Dip with Pita



Hummus Dip with Pita



Falafel



Kalamari



Moussaka



Greek Salad



Baklava Dessert

Drinks will be charged extra. Nice selection of wines available.

Please RSVP to Marit at [silcvice@gmail.com](mailto:silcvice@gmail.com) by 1st December.



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### Olive locations

Ekamai Branch, 37/1 Soi Chareonjai (Ekamai 12)

Fifth Food Avenue, 5th Fl., MBK

### Olive Take Home

Gourmet Market, Emporium (5F), Sukhumvit 24, **NEW!! Gourmet Market, Terminal 21 (LG/F), Sukhumvit 21**  
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For more information call **02 713 1112, 02 713 1133**

/olivebangkok

[www.olivebangkok.com](http://www.olivebangkok.com)

# Christmas Coffee/Lunch

## NO IDEA GASTROPUB

SUKUMVIT SOI 22

ON

TUESDAY DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> 2015

FROM 11AM ONWARDS

Cost of this lunch 1100 Baht net.

Christmas is almost upon us again ladies, so please come and celebrate the festive season with Jo, Sue and Kay at No Idea Gastro-pub on Sukhumvit Soi 22.

There will be a 3 course traditional Christmas menu, tea and coffee and a complimentary glass of Prosecco or two for our members courtesy of SILC, lots of festive cheer and the ever popular Christmas gift exchange! If you wish to participate in the gift exchange please bring along a wrapped gift to the value of no more than 500 baht.

We will also be running a raffle with some wonderful prizes to be won and of course all proceeds to go to Thai charities of SILC's choice.

If you would like to join please RSVP and state your menu choice (see menu opposite) to Jo Thomas at [silclunch@gmail.com](mailto:silclunch@gmail.com) – please note the deadline is Tuesday 1st December – numbers are to be confirmed later in the day to No Idea. No RSVP's will be accepted after this date and any cancellations after the 1st will have to be paid for in full.



**NB** Any additional drinks will be at your own cost on your own bill. Monies for the lunch will be collected upon arrival.

Coffee and Tea will be served between 11am and 12pm, which are included in the price of the lunch, any additional coffee's or tea's after lunch will be at an extra charge to you.

Lunch will be served at 12.30pm.

# CHRISTMAS LUNCH MENU 2015

## NO IDEA GASTROPUB

.....

### STARTERS

Smoked Salmon

OR

Cream of Pumpkin Soup

.....

### MAIN COURSE

Traditional Christmas Turkey, Roast potatoes, baby carrots, broccoli, stuffing and gravy

OR

Pasta with asparagus and Portobello mushrooms

.....

### DESSERT

Traditional Christmas pudding with Brandy custard

OR

Vanilla Ice cream

.....

Tea or Coffee – Served between 11am-12pm

## Welfare Request

### CHRISTMAS GIFT DONATIONS REQUIRED

We need your help in collecting 400 new underwear and socks for the children we look after in our various projects. The children are **under 5 years olds** who come from underprivileged families and underwear and socks are often overlooked when clothing a child on a limited budget. Your donation will make a difference in these children's lives.

Could you please send your socks and underwear by the **21st of November** to Shirley Tan or Chris Rajakarier. We are only looking for new items on this occasion, as it will be part of their Christmas gift.

Underwear: We do need a mix of girls and boys underwear so either will work.

Socks: we need socks size 5-7 please







# SILC Book Club



## December Books

**Christmas Letters** -Katherine often spends her days in a café writing Christmas letters for other people – making their everyday life sound more interesting, more humorous and more dramatic.....

**After Alice** – When Alice fell down the rabbit hole how did Victorian Oxford react to her disappearance?

## January Books

**Fieldwork** is a mesmerizing novel blurring lines between fact and fiction. A tale of a mysterious anthropologist weaving a complex plot from Berkeley to the hill tribes of Thailand and our second choice

**The Age of Miracles** tells an overwhelming story, through the eyes of 12 year old Julia, of the end of the world as earth begins to slow down its rotations.

**More Details :** Contact Sara at [saracarrlegg@hotmail.com](mailto:saracarrlegg@hotmail.com) or 0870881815

## December/January

December 15<sup>th</sup> – 11:00-13:00  
the Royal Oak



Christmas Letters

By Debbie Macomber



After Alice

By Gregory Maguire

January 28<sup>th</sup> – 12:00-14:00  
Jane Campton's



Fieldwork

By Mischa Berlinski



The Age of Miracles

By Karen Thompson Walker



## Welfare Requests



The welfare team would be most grateful for any donations of **children's toothbrushes** suitable for ages 2-6. (either in the set with a small tube of toothpaste or without), available at most supermarkets.

Also 1 litre bottles of the cheaper **cooking oil** for the oil run.

These items can be passed onto our welfare team members:

Kay Hickey, Shirley Tan, Dianne Darke,

Debbie Morton, Marianne Metzelaar, Chris Rajakarier







# Welfare Activity



## Mahawong Preschool

Welfare Activity – November 2015

This month the children of Mahawong enjoyed creating sparkling crowns in honour of the King's birthday. The children had lots of fun adorning their crowns with an array of shiny stars, glittering stickers as well as being very imaginative with the numerous colourful stamps. As you can see from the pictures the children were very proud of their handiwork! It was amusing to see the kids bounce around with their crowns.

November is also a very special time for Mahawong as it is the third anniversary of little Cartoon's untimely horrific death. In honour of the occasion Shirley replanted some beautiful flowers in Cartoon's memorial garden. The Memorial garden was created by SILC to remember Cartoon and to enable some healing for the children and teachers.

Come along next month if you can, to join in helping at the children's Christmas party on the 9<sup>th</sup> of December. There will be a very special visit from Santa and an opportunity to enjoy a brunch/lunch together after.

**We are collecting underwear and socks to put in the children's Christmas bag.**

**Underwear and socks are often overlooked when clothing a child on a very limited budget. Your donation will make a difference in these children's lives.**

**Could you please send the socks and underwear to Shirley Tan, Dianne Darke, Kay Hickey, Debbie Morton or Chris Rajakarier. We are only looking for new items in this occasion, as it will be part of their Christmas gift.**

**Underwear: for 5 years and under.**

**Socks: Size 5-7 please**

We do need a mix of girls and boys underwear so either will work.

Many Thanks

Cathy





# January Lunch



## JANE CAMPTON'S RESIDENCE

APARTMENT 7 THOMPSON RESIDENCES

BANGNA TRAD ROAD SOI 4

**FRIDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> JANUARY 2016**

FROM 11AM ONWARDS

Welcome back from the Christmas and New Year holidays, the first lunch of the New Year will be a 'Pot Luck' lunch. Please bring along a dish of your choice to share, can be either savoury or sweet and catch up with your friends.

If you would like to join this lunch which always proves very popular please RSVP to Jo or Sue at [silclunch@gmail.com](mailto:silclunch@gmail.com) by Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2016.



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# January Coffee Morning



Thursday 14th January 2016

Time: 10am -12pm

**Coffee Bean By Dao - 7th Floor The Helix at EmQuartier**



Please join us for our first coffee morning of the New Year on Thursday the 14th of January. If you haven't been to Coffee Bean By Dao before you are in for a treat. Their cakes are to die for!! Highly recommend the carrot cake!

This will be a nice casual get together after the Christmas and New Year celebrations. Mind you I'm sure we will all be on our New Year resolution of not eating cake and so on!! :-) One more won't do any harm!

Look forward to many of you joining us for this one! Easiest way to get there is by BTS to Prom Prong. There is an entrance straight in to EmQuartier from the station. Head for the Helix and take the elevator to the 7th floor.

Please RSVP to Sunita and Kay at [silccoffees@gmail.com](mailto:silccoffees@gmail.com) by Monday the 11th of January.

**Wishing you all a Very Merry Christmas and Happy and Peaceful New year.**



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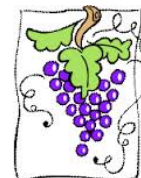
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# January Tour



## Day tour Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January PB Valley Khao Yai Winery

In 1989 the first vineyard of Thailand was planted, spread over a total of 20 hectares. With the harvest of 1998, PB Valley Khao Yai Winery celebrated its first milestone. It is still the largest vineyard in Khao Yai nowadays.

PB Valley Estate is located 150 km's northeast of Bangkok on the edge of the Khao Yai National Park (2-2.5 h. drive). On our tour we will visit the wine estate and if we are lucky, harvesting started by then (depending on weather, usually starting end of January)

We will do the **Vineyard and Winery Tour**, a guided tour of the vineyards with explanation about the various wine grapes as well fresh table grapes. The tour also includes other fruit orchards such as dragon fruit, passion fruit and others as this is a point of interest to many visitors. This is followed by a tour of the Winery which includes a wine tasting at the wine tasting and education center next to the winery. The tour will start at 10:30 am and takes about 75 minutes. Afterwards you will have the opportunity to shop wines and other produce like juices, jams sauces and other produce of PB Valley at the Wine and Souvenir Shop next to the Great Hornbill Grill ☺

At noon a great lunch will be served. We can choose from a Thai or Western menu (details when signed up)

**Date:** Tuesday 26 January

**Time:** 7:30 am from Patana

**Finish:** around 4:30 at Patana

**Costs:** +/- THB 1,500 (depending on final numbers)

**Lunch:** included

**Minimum number:** 7 participants

**Maximum number:** 18 participants



If you would like to join, please respond before Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January to: [silctour@gmail.com](mailto:silctour@gmail.com)

Jimmy & Carla







# January Evening



**SILC Presents**

## **“SILC Family Bowling Fun”**

**Friday January 15th, 8-10 pm**

**Blu O Bowling, Mega Bangna**

**Cost Baht 750 pp**  
**Pre-registration is required**

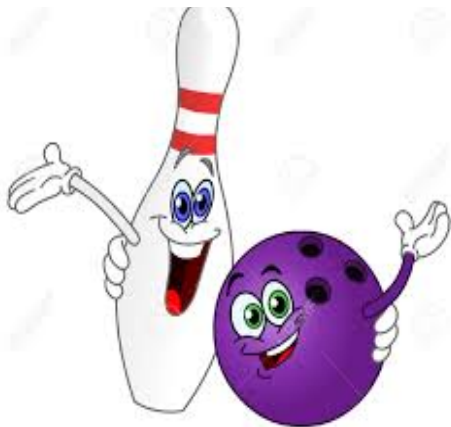
**The event is open to all SILC members and their families (secondary kids only) and friends**

**Reserve your spot today!!**

**(Space is limited) at**

**[silcvice@gmail.com](mailto:silcvice@gmail.com)**

**Entries & Payments must be received by January 12th.**



**Each entrant will enjoy 2 hours of bowling, snacks & soft drinks/beer. Shoe rental included (please bring socks)**

**Each teams consists of 6 bowlers, you will be matched with other bowlers to make up a team.**

**Prizes for High game, Low game and best “Team”.**



# Members Page



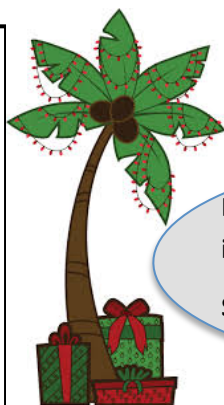
## New Members this month:

**Corinne Smits**

**Monique Sanchez**

**Mireille Vogelsang**

**Melanie Richards**



If you know anyone who may be interested in joining SILC please ask them to contact:

Sara/Jeanette: [silcthai@gmail.com](mailto:silcthai@gmail.com)

Visit us at:  
[www.SILCBangkok.com](http://www.SILCBangkok.com)



# MERRY CHRISTMAS

### Put a face to the name.

New members, please send in a short blurb to introduce yourself to other members, along with a photograph if possible (with or without the family).

Send to the editor: [silcmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:silcmagazine@gmail.com)

## Aqua Aerobics Classes

A few places are available at our Aqua Aerobics sessions. All you need is a swim noodle and a sense of fun, so please come and join us. The classes are a good workout (as well as a good chance to natter with friends). You don't really have to be able to swim as most exercises are done in chest deep water or with a noodle when in deeper water. Classes are every week during Patana school term time.



The 2 classes use the same Thai instructor but are run independently, so please get in touch with the organiser depending on which location/day suits you best. Prices differ according to numbers in the class as the cost is split equally, but are usually around 250/300b per class.

For Garden Towers on Monday mornings 8-9:15 am  
contact Jan Briggs: [jan.briggs22@gmail.com](mailto:jan.briggs22@gmail.com)

For Lakeside 1 on Thursday mornings 8-9:15 am  
contact Nicky Hobson-Groble: 091 838 3170 or  
[jaco\\_gro@mweb.co.za](mailto:jaco_gro@mweb.co.za)

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# SILC PARTY NIGHT



## REACHING NEW HEIGHTS!

It was great to see so many members, partners & friends having such a good time at the recent SILC Party Night held at the rooftop bar at the Centara Watergate Pavilion.

The atmosphere was friendly and relaxed, the crowd lively and fun, and the venue gave us a whole new view of the Bangkok skyline as we wine and dined in style. It was just a shame the DJ decided our carefully selected 70s/80s playlist too passé as a bit more dancing would have meant a perfect evening!

A huge thank you to everyone who came along and particularly to Sue and Jane for organising and hosting (even if Jane was upstaged by the Victoria Secrets models although we are lead to understand she is staging a fightback based on recent Facebook pictures!). Big thanks too to Sue's husband Chris for helping with the venue and door prizes and the Centara team for their hospitality.



The money raised by the evening will be going towards funding a chemotherapy infusion pump for use by the Bangkok Breast Cancer Support Group who supports breast cancer patients who have limited access to care and treatment.



**All SILC events are subject to change.  
Please confirm your attendance with the  
relevant contact.**

**Please advise of your cancellation as  
soon as possible so that another  
member may take your place.**



# SILC Ladies at the Melbourne Cup



## A FAB DAY AT THE RACE

We looked fabulous; the venue and food were fabulous; it was fab that the winning horse was ridden by a female jockey and we had a really fabulous day! We learned how to take selfies! Now, who is coming next year? It's guaranteed to be fabulous again because this lot are signed up for it already.

Well done and thank you to Marylou and her team at ANZWG. The day really was a treat and congratulations on raising 900.000 baht.

PS I thought the Dutch SILC-ies should have won



Melbourne Cup  








# Welcome to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century



By Jane C

*nb This article comes with a PG rating.*



Whilst idly googling the other day, I came across the Urban Dictionary and what a treat it was! There were heaps of words and expressions new to me so I thought I would share a few-

**Trap Queen**- *"A bomb-ass female. The baddest female. She is loyal to her friends, lives for her family, and gives no time to bitter, petty bitches. She also enjoys listening to trap music."* I would like to be a trap queen even though I don't know what trap music is. Or a bomb ass for that matter.

**Armpit dingleberries**- *"when stick deodorant is hastily applied to a hairy underarm region, resulting in chunks of deodorant becoming suspended in the mass of hair."* Mr C suffers occasionally.

**Aisle salmon**- *"The act of moving in the opposite direction of everyone else using the aisle. While they can be spotted in any type of aisle, they are frequently seen on airlines during loading and deplaning."*

**Sideboob**- *"A view of the female breast seen from a side."* Though attractive in the youthful, it's less so for older ladies as it generally means your top is too tight and your bosom is squelching out of the armhole.

**Tramp stamp**- *"A tattoo above a woman's backside."* I have one. This is because I am a trap queen.

**Chesticles** *"Noun: Female breasts. Derived from the male word "testicles"*

**Kthxbye**- *"it is used to end a conversation \*fast\* that you don't want to be in anymore."*

**Umop apisdn**- *It's upside down, upside down.*

I then asked my children if these were in current usage and learned that they might be for mums but teen speak has moved on. Here is a current selection –

**On point**- successfully used by Ms Birchall only last week, this means looking good. *"Your hair is on point today"*

**Piff**- *good looking girl.* New word for peng.

**Hench**- *good looking and well-built boy.*

**Fleek**- similar to on point but even more ridiculous. *"Your eyebrows are on fleek."*

**Shrekkd**- *reckt apparently.* Used to replace the now old fashioned expression "sick"

**Fam**- *Family.* When I was a girl at Stand Grammar School for girls it was what we would say if we were in the dinner queue – *"wish they'd hurry up, I'm fam."*

**Ting** – Thing.

**Wasteman** – *someone who does nothing with their life.*

**Roadman**- *gangster*

**Madness** – an over the top act. *"Hit me with the madness "means "what did you have to do that for."* Apparently.

I have put them into a little scenario for you-

**Boy**- You look really shrekkd and piff; your hair is on point and your eyebrows are on fleek. Would you come to the cinema with me?

**Girl**- Uck boy. Ting is bruh, your dad is a wasteman, you're not hench and I am going out with a roadman already.

**Boy**- Madness.

I thought we ought to have some of our own too-

**Meet you at the beagle** – let's have lunch at Emquartier, possibly with wine.

**The traffic is terrible** – I am running late, mainly because I got up late and then had to watch the new episode of Downton Abbey before I got ready.

**STFU**- sky train full up. Another reason for lateness.

**BP** - bit drunk. *"My BP is sky high after lunch today."*

**VPL**- very drunk, legless. *"After meeting at the beagle, I had VPL but not quite as bad as when I went to the Melbourne Cup, that was madness"*

**Are you having trouble with the aircon**- I am having a hot flush.

**LMFAO**- Lovely mahjong friends are orsome, obviously.

**Back of the tent**- a resounding success. In cool circles, this expression has taken over from back of the net.

And following on from 555, I give you 222 - what you shout in karaoke bars when suffering with VPL- and 444 – what you say to your kids when they have found their lost object and it was exactly where you said it would be.



## *SILC's Annual Bazaar 2015*

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to this year's Annual Bazaar. It was a great SILC team effort with many members finding time to assist with the bazaar preparations, volunteer on the day, make some homemade cakes, donate unwanted items or come along to get their holiday shopping started.

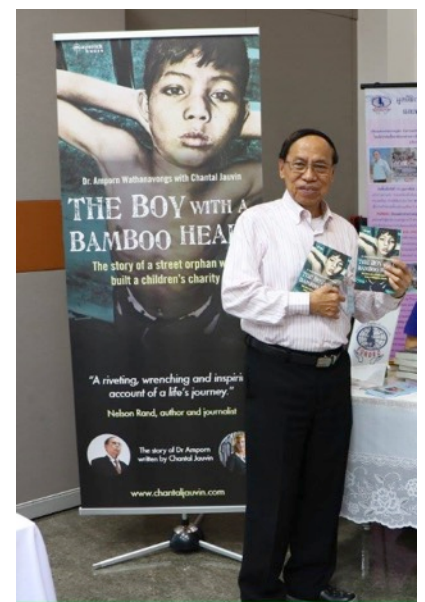
With a good selection of vendors and charities offering their wares, we had over 300 visitors who enjoyed the fun & festive atmosphere at the bazaar although the Christmas music definitely felt a tad on the early side!

We were also very privileged to have Dr Amporn from FORDEC join us for most of the day as he promoted his new book, "The Boy with a Bamboo Heart".

So far the bazaar has raised just over 120,000 baht income for our charity funds but we are hoping that this will increase further as we finalise the accounts.

Many thanks go once again to Patana for the complimentary use of the conference centre and to Genevieve and her team for their fabulous support.

Dianne & Cathy







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Mark Leoni & family, Doctor of Chiropractic (USA)

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# Recipes please



## “Bilingual Bites” Vol. 2

Following the overwhelming response to our first charity cookbook, “Bilingual Bites” in 2012, and from you, our lovely members and supporters, we have started to collect recipes to create Bilingual Bites Vol. 2.

Bilingual Bites showcases SILC Members favourite recipes – those fond memories from home countries and also the delicious dishes that turn up at our Coffee Mornings and other SILC events.

Each recipe is translated into Thai – useful for Bangkok Expat life with Thai housekeepers cooking for us -- and a photo for inspiration and reference.

**The book’s success depends on you!** Our membership represents 26 nationalities, and we would love to have a cookbook representing this rich international community.

Please send in your favourite tried and tested recipe in English. If you can provide a colour photograph, please do.

Sales from the cook book will provide funds for our SILC welfare projects

Please send your recipes to [silccookbook@gmail.com](mailto:silccookbook@gmail.com)

Please send a Word document:

- ~ Indicate whether your recipe is an Appetizer, Main Dish or Dessert.
- ~ Write out the **Ingredients** with clearly indicated measurements, followed by **Method**.
- ~ If you are a Thai speaker, please help us by translating your recipe and sending it to us in both Thai and English.
- ~ Photos should be colour, and in JPEG format and minimum size of 1 MB (iPhone photos, for instance, will not work).
- ~ Send photos as a separate file from recipe.



# Tiny Tigers Playgroup **at Bangkok Patana School** Roaring for Longer!



*Our popular playgroup, Tiny Tigers, is now available five days a week and accepting enrolments for 2016.*

Run by our specialist Early Years teachers, offering access to our wonderful Foundation Stage environment and learning, Tiny Tigers welcomes accompanied children between one and three years of age.

For more information and to join the fun, please email us at [admissions@patana.ac.th](mailto:admissions@patana.ac.th) or call on **02 785 2205**.



## Monday to Friday 8.00am until 10.30am



**Bangkok Patana School**  
*The British International School in Thailand*  
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[admissions@patana.ac.th](mailto:admissions@patana.ac.th)



What a lovely crowd and what a great night out. I don't usually do trips out to BKK, especially in the evening, much too busy and traffic much too horrendous. But this time I was tempted and I boy was I right about the traffic. Without planning it we managed to create a competition - *which is faster into town from Bangna at about 6pm on a Wednesday night, taxi/BTS/walk vs drive door to door?* Competition was accidentally created because I'd told one of the passengers we were leaving at 6:45 and it should have been 5:45. B because she wasn't ready, she said go on ahead and she'd make her own way. I understand she chilled with a glass of wine while getting spruced up, then slowly walked to the main entrance (that's a bit unlikely – walking that is - when you find out who it was but adds to the tale). You guessed it, despite having the best taxi driver in town (Sunita is *wicked*, she zips in and out like the best of 'em) we lost convincingly. We arrived half an hour after our cancelled passenger and she was a quarter of an hour late! (Njah, you are now famous, or is it infamous – tee hee!).

Meal was *Italianno*, with a twist on the free-flow cocktails of free-flow pizza and pasta – oh and don't forget the free-flow wine! As soon as we arrived I realized that we were way behind on the food and alcohol stakes so immediately ordered 2 cocktails. Sunita, at the other end of the table was more restrained – I hope – she was driving us home! I could recommend the Screwdriver, Orange Blossom, Daiquiri, Blue Margarita and Caipirinha, Tequila Sunrise – in fact them all, didn't I do well! The meal was scrumptious and the pudding not big enough, my problem is I want some of every pudding so end up eating mine while eyeing up everybody else's such as the crème brule, the tiramisu etc. but I did enjoy my panna cotta.

This was (one of) my farewell meal with the SILC ladies. After having been here for 5 and a bit years I've had a terrific time and most of it thanks to SILC. Thank-you Marit for arranging this night out, I thoroughly enjoyed it.



As a bit of an addendum, I write this sitting in a service apartment while hubby flies to Sunny Mumbai to start our 3 year India contract. Kids and I should have been going with him but problems with our visa – India Visa Service didn't have the visa cost code so had to ask India Embassy. We're obviously the **FIRST** UK citizens to **EVER** go to Mumbai from Thailand so it was to be expected! But it has gained me a few extra days which include one last SILC mahjong session, couple of golf games and a night or two out – but alas not the Melbourne Cup – no time!

Have had a superb 5 years here and would like to thank all in SILC, past and present members for making me so welcome. Mahjong was a gift, a brilliant way to meet people and to feel “at home”, the cast was fantastic and although I only topped the leader board once or twice (if ever) I had *Unique Wonder* fun, Pungs and Kongs (or Bongs) to you all. Would have been nice to go to one last iconic ANZWG Melbourne Charity Cup but time is not my ally, have been to two already and will live with those memories, great day out – and loads of booze! Book club was a dream, got back into reading books in a big way and challenged myself with all sorts of different genres, plus a great, dare I say *intimate* (maybe not appropriate language after reading *Fifty Shades of Grey*) group. Our group inspired many a film, without us, *Gone Girl*, *The Railwayman*, *The Help*, *Still Alice* to name a few, would never have made the big screen. Even now directors are flocking to view our future and past reading lists. Loved the politics of the SILC committee and thoroughly enjoyed being Treasurer, especially creating more and more complex spread sheets and sending them via dropbox knowing full well that most wouldn't even have a look – I think they *might have* viewed the one sheet summary.





Was going to add a quip about thanking SILC for my holidays but felt that this might be inappropriate after hearing that the BAMBI treasurer *allegedly* did a bunk with their funds (can I say that? Guess I can, 'cos I just did!). Managed to get involved in Craft Club and was very productive and thoroughly enjoyed creating and displaying all my efforts, shockingly I was proud of them all! Went out on some informative and well-planned SILC tours, many thanks to the organisers for their efforts. Lunches, evenings and coffee mornings were not my forte but the ones I did get to were delicious.

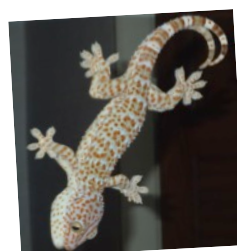
Golf was not part of SILC but it's through a band of encouraging SILC individuals that I made it onto a real course and hacked my way around – which you'll be pleased to know I still do, but with the knowledge of which water hazards to dunk my balls in and make offerings to the water gods. As those who know me I'm a bit of an addict so I'd like to encourage you to get out and play it's a terrific, but frustrating game. One other non-SILC activity I really, really enjoyed (was the card game) bridge. Here in sunny BKK it is very popular and tournaments run every day of the week. Great fun and as competitive as you want it to be. I loved it, if you play then get involved it's super (running out of synonyms for brilliant!). The light at the end of the tunnel for SILC members is that Canasta is starting to earn a place among the SILC membership, remembering the rules has been fun and my tactics have been *interesting* or rather a bit different.



Just to end. For my family and I, Thailand has been an adventure, the wildlife different, sunsets and scenery breathtaking, and the people very interesting and friendly. One big feature is the variety of goods that the pick-up truck is used for (animals, trees, shops, people, chairs, fruit, the list is endless – if you need to carry it then pick-up truck it!), don't think there is a weight limit or a limit on how much you can overload them and the couple of pictures show. Think SILC should run the best pick-up truck picture award.

Finally, a fond *au revoir* to you all. Hope you all continue to enjoy Thailand and SILC as much as me. And now onto our next adventure, Mumbai and their auto rickshaws . . .

All the best from, the usually anonymous, Betty







Our first book club of the 2015/16 academic year (as you would expect we obviously follow the academic year - further education and all that!) was in September and we should have read two books. Yet again another “miscommunication” (or was it deliberate . . .) we all read totally the wrong ones so the discussion was more on how to co-ordinate, nay discipline ourselves, to follow our readings for the next meeting. In our defense holidays were cited as the reason, though I really don’t think this is worthy of cross-examination.

So this month, October, we had a plan – which partly succeeded so we did managed a discussion over a cider or two.

Betty



## *Where D’You Go, Bernadette? By Marie Semple*

I must admit I was not keen to read this book mostly because of the cover and the implied chick flick content and the blurbs implication of yet another book about mothers. How wrong could I be? Yes, the story is a bit chick flicky but it is an easy and entertaining read. The writing style is through a series of emails and transcripts of conversations. This might sound odd but we all think it worked very well.

The book is about a married couple (Bernadette and Elgie) and their 15-year-old daughter (Bee). Bernadette started a very successful career as an architect, rapidly rose to fame and then gave it all up after having a child, Bee. Elgie then realized his career in Microsoft as a top nerd programmer and designer. Bee, ultra clever, gets a scholarship for a “top” school. The book focuses upon a short period in their lives when the Desperate Housewife syndrome (does this exist?) kicks in. There’s competition and conflict between the “good” school mums and Bernadette who really doesn’t fit in and doesn’t even want to try. This escalates out of control and Bernadette disappears. Bee tasks herself with finding out what happened.

In no way is this book a whodunnit there is a mystery but this is secondary to the book, it’s more about how events get misinterpreted and things get out of hand. Well worth pursuing.

Unusually, most of us read the book – partly I guess ‘cos we had a free copy and it was short and sweet. One thought it was OK but all the others enjoyed it. It is a light read and you will be well entertained. As an aside, as a very gullible person, I did check that the unlikely events were not based on fact – relief they were not!

As with all our SILC GoodReads there is lots of potential for being made into a film - Spielberg and Mendes you heard it from SILC ladies first!!

Goodreads review, 3.91.

*The quote from this book is a very sweet fact (or hypothesis, but I believe it is a fact) that I didn't know before, will make use of myself, and will pass onto you. Now that's got you intrigued, it is:*

*“ . . . "I think my favorite part of Antarctica is just looking out." You know why?" Dad asked. "When your eyes are softly focused on the horizon for sustained periods, your brain releases endorphins. It's the same as a runner's high."*

## *Purity by Jonathan Franzen*



Unfortunately we failed miserably with this book with only one of us managing to plough through it. Mostly this was because we didn’t have a free copy!! One of our clan had a great idea and read an extract – result was she decided firmly against investing in the actual book. She thought the author was “*smug and the protagonist deeply unpleasant*”. I loved her eloquence of describing it as, “*another load of misogynistic guff written by another condescending author*” (last word has been altered a tad for educational reasons).

No way would the cover entice me to select it from the shelf. After our meeting I did also read a couple of excerpts and also wasn’t inspired. The one person who did read the book commented that it was “BIG”, hard work and about motherhood. Would she recommend it? There was a long pause – the answer was vaguely an unsure yes. As a book club I think it is a unanimous don’t bother!

Goodreads review, 3.63. - No good quotes today - thankfully!



# My sad Farewell to SILC Book Club by Betty

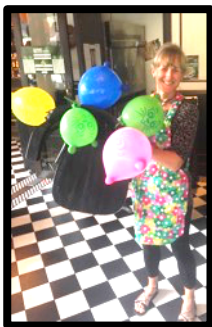


Our book club started way back in 2012 by Julie Nguyen who had to hand over the organising because of a JOB last year!! (Cough Cough Splutter Splutter). This year it has been in the capable hands of Sara Carr Legg. I have been a regular attendee and have loved the camaraderie, discussions, book choices, and let's not forget the SILC prerequisite of cracking food and drink!

Most of the books we read are way outside my comfort reading so I was pushed to read topics and genre alien to me – and I loved it. Thanks to all for giving you recommendations of good reads. Some have been challenging and not very well written reads but inspirational (such as “*I am Malala*”, and “*The Railwayman*”) some have been odd (such as “*Wasp Factory*”), others have been great fun (such as “*I am Pilgrim*”, “*Me Before You*” and “*Shantaram*”), others have been very odd, boring, and in my opinion not recommendable (such as “*50 Shades of Grey*”), others have been surprising (such as “*Cold Comfort Farm*”) and others have caused debate (such as “*Two Brothers*”), plus I have been challenged by classics such as “*Anna Karenina*” which I was the only one to plough through – thanks a bunch friends!

It has been great being part of our exclusive group and I have loved our meetings – probably for all the wrong reasons but whatever! I was so pleased to have our final meeting with you all in the pub with a couple of Magner Ciders to hand. And thanks for your gifts – shame the facemask was lost that would have been a godsend in sunny Mumbai! Hope to see some of you in the future and if you are in Mumbai pop in. BUT DEFINITELY bcc me in emails so I can follow SILC Book Club's stunning reading list!

All the best – and I am happy this time to add my name - Betty Stewart!! BCC SILC Book Club member



*(subnote from the Book Club members : We will miss our very own Bangkok Betty with her wit and awesomeness she brought to every Book Club meeting and not forgetting her fantastic Book reviews – have a fab time in Mumbai x x x)*



## LUNCH REVIEW Friday November 6<sup>th</sup>



### OPEN HOUSE at SUNITA'S.

**“Tradition goes on, for 20 years already”, it read on the invite.**

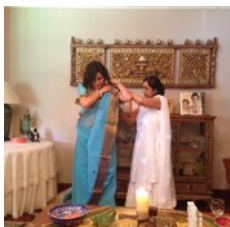
So time for me to free up my busy schedule of commitments, school events and playing tour guide to our many houseguests this month. There was no “getting out” of this event, as I’m truly grateful for the fact that Sunita is one of the founding members of SILC, a group that I became a member of 7 years ago and that has given me many great friendships and experiences in return.

“Sunita’s Open House” is famous and talked about a lot within SILC and I’m sure outside SILC as well, as there were numerous other ladies (where were the man?) who attended.

I was an opportunity for her to raise some funds for the many projects she supports in both India and Thailand, while sharing the beauty and projects her beloved “home” country India has to offer. There were a mixture of beautiful jewellery, authentic home décor items and delicious foods on display. Needless to say I couldn’t resist the temptation and spend more than I anticipated doing so but one ring just called out to me and the fact that it was “my exact size” said enough. A match made in heaven.

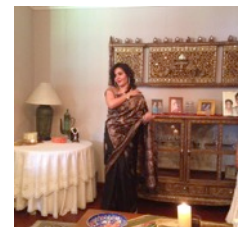
The food was, as always, to die for and every single lady (honestly) dished up a plate full while some (eh me) even went back for seconds. Whilst eating and sipping on a glass of wine (which of course we normally would never do on a midday lunch) we were treated to a demonstration on how to tie a traditional Indian sari, the most graceful of their National dress.

I don’t think I will ever master the skill without at least 2 helpers, nor will I look as graceful in it as the demonstrating lady did but I surely enjoyed every minute of it.



THANK U Sunita, for once again opening up your home. I salute the kind soul you are and truly hope your chosen charities do realize how lucky they are to have your support.

Angelique Leijdekker





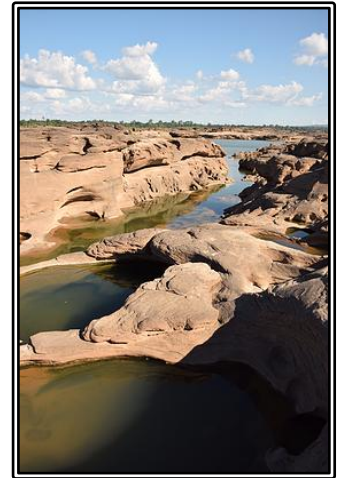
# SILC Tours go on an Upcountry Adventure



UBON RATCHATHANI TOUR 18-19 November 2015

For the first time in SILC history a group of 15 ladies embarked on an overnight adventure! We had a very early start flying out of Bangkok to Ubon Ratchatani in Isaan, North East Thailand, far off the beaten track.

Our tour started with a view of the Mun River where we tasted local delicacies. The deep fried anchovy-type fish and tiny crabs were tasted by only the most adventurous of us. We won't mention any names here! We then visited a couple of temples before reaching the Pha Taem national park where we first were greeted by giant mushroom shaped rocks of which we soon found out were huge sandstone creations. We kept an eye out for Fred Flintstone, but soon came to realise he must have been on holiday as we never saw any of his family members. We then climbed over black rock plateaus with big gaps of which we still aren't sure how they got there..... The gaps that is. It almost looked like an earth quake must have caused the gaps. We hiked along a beautiful trail along the bottom of a cliff to see the oldest prehistoric rock paintings in Thailand which are over 3,000 years old. A beautiful but at times challenging hike because of slippery paths, narrow passages and some steep stairs. Not to mention the huge bee hives hanging above the path.



We ended the day with a fabulous meal overlooking the Mekong River in Tohsang Khongjiam hotel, which was a great choice with a wonderful pool where we were pleased to cool down after the heat of the day. Being outside and active in the heat all day takes its toll and by 9 pm we all thought it was about 11 pm already.

The second day of the tour started well with breakfast open air in a beautiful setting overseeing the river. We were treated by a huge variety of delicious breakfast dishes, a great combination of western, Thai and Vietnamese delicacies.

After check out we headed to see a couple of waterfalls with the amazing three thousand holes stretch of the Mekong (Sam Pan Bok). A truly hidden treasure which surprised even those of us that have been in Thailand for many years. Makes you wonder why they are never talked about when mentioning Isaan and all it has to offer. An absolute Must See we all agreed upon.







## SILC Tours go on an Upcountry Adventure



By one o'clock we were hungry again so another feast at one of the great local restaurant Jimmy always finds for us. In the middle of nowhere the 2 Thai "chefs" managed to yet again surprise us with a delicious lunch. The best bit however, was the surprise of the amazing rock formations known locally as the Grand Canyon of Thailand created by erosion of rocks by the circular current of the Mekong river. 3000 holes it's called but I think we lost count at about 2898. An amazing climb of which every step brought a new surprise. We would have just loved to dive into some of the pools but resisted temptation.

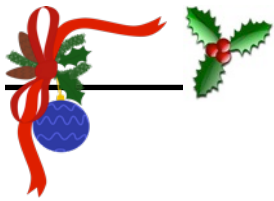
All in all a truly fabulous tour enjoyed by every one of us, so massive thanks to Jimmy & Carla for putting together a great trip. As a group we would highly recommend this destination for its amazing unspoilt scenery and tranquil setting. Jeannette wants to go for three nights next year!!!

By all the ladies who enjoyed every minute of this well organized tour.

*Jeannette, Sunita, Dianne, Clare, Geraldine, Sudeshna, Willeke, Marianne, Angelique, Caroline, Franziska, Margit, Mie, Jimmy, Carla*



For more photos  
please go to our  
Facebook Page!



# Coffee Morning review



## Coffee Morning at The Village

Harshi's story so far



### The Things That Make Me Different Are The Things That Make Me ME

Meeting Harshi at The Village gives you an instant boost of positive energy, The Village is a leading education centre for children with Special Needs and Learning Differences. Thursday morning November 12th, Harshi is helping to set up the bright and sunny visitor's room for the SILC morning. Harshi is involved in making the tea, putting the coffee beans into the machine and making sure there is enough food to go round.

Later on we find out much more about Harshi and how his involvement and enthusiasm transits through every aspect of The Village. The centre has grown in 16 years from just a 1 room – 1 student centre to the amazing centre it is today. This is Harshi's story so far because his dream and vision is to give all students with differences the opportunity to enjoy an inclusive education enabling them to participate and contribute in our world today.

We had a tour around the centre from the DT room and a classroom brainstorming their ideas to the Sensory Room complete with a furry wall and ceiling lights that make out the milky way. We learnt a lot that morning at The Village; mostly to value and celebrate differences and that it's great to be me.



*Sara*



**The Village Christmas Panto**  
9th December - 18:00  
come and see the students  
perform their play Aladdin

