

# SILC NEWS



A publication of the Samutprakarn International Ladies Club

February 2013

## This Month:



**Tour - Historic Bangrak**  
**Tuesday 19 February - Pg 8**

**Coffee Morning - Defend yourself!**  
**Friday 22 February - Pg 6,7**



**Lunch - Baan Khanitha**  
**Tuesday 26 February - Pg 9**

# Committee Members

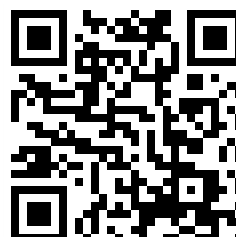
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<b>Area</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
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Lakeside 1	Sarah Chaplin	089 205 1528
Lakeside 2	Jane Wise	087 050 0950
Nantawan	Ngoc Richt	081 371 2107
Thana City	Irene Gray	080 251 4440

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# From Sarah's Study



I do hope that 2013 has started well for everyone and that you had a lovely holiday. We really enjoyed a luxurious break at Centara Hua Hin (formally the Sofitel). The gardens are beautiful, the staff were great and it was lovely to spend time with my parents, who were visiting us for Christmas. It seems a long time ago already!

A new term has started and Emily has started her last term of her school life. Where do the years go? I'm sure I could dig out a lovely old picture to include but, put simply, she'd go mad! Suffice it to say that I have many happy memories to treasure – there might be more but I can't remember! At least I'll still have two more years until the nest is empty and Oliver finishes school. What will I do then I wonder.....

We've had our first committee meeting of the year and we made an enthusiastic start to 2013. Thinking ahead we discussed the AGM, which will be held on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May. As a few committee members will be leaving Bangkok this summer there will be lots of opportunities to get involved with the SILC committee, which I hope you'll consider joining. We have almost 100 members and will only flourish with a good committee.

We are currently considering projects to support with the funds raised by the SILC Bazaar and SILC cookbook. I would like to, once again, thank everyone who helped to make both such a success. I can thoroughly recommend Ngoc's crème caramel and Jo's easy party quiche. The cookbook has allowed me to teach my maid to cook these easily. She reads her Thai page and I read the English. I'm the lucky one because I then get to enjoy eating it after she's gone home at 5!

I'm looking forward to the lunch at Quince this week and can thoroughly recommend Munjai café where our coffee will be held on the 29<sup>th</sup> Jan as I went there a couple of weeks ago. Great food and supporting Helping Hands along the way - just the sort of thing I like.

I think I've spent too long on the computer as my eyes are beginning to hurt so I'll sign off now and continue to sort out the bookshelf so I can take some books to the coffee morning next week – including the one we have two copies of!!!

See you at a SILC event soon

Sarah x

## Hosting? Need more chairs or spoons?

There is crockery and cutlery available for members to borrow when hosting a SILC event.

For details contact Sarah:  
[silcchair@gmail.com](mailto:silcchair@gmail.com)

There are also folding chairs and some tables available to borrow for SILC events:

For these contact: Betty:  
[bettystewarto@gmail.com](mailto:bettystewarto@gmail.com)

## Deadline

Tuesday 19 February 2013 is the deadline for any articles for the March Newsletter.

If you have any recipes, book reviews, recommendations for holidays or questions for our bulletin board please forward them to the Newsletter Editor: [jan.briggs22@gmail.com](mailto:jan.briggs22@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 without travelling into Bangkok. We invite members to join monthly meetings, tours and interest groups. Members pay an annual fee of 800 Baht to cover costs and receive a newsletter and club directory.

## 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 Policy on Children

As the main purpose of SILC is to provide a network and support for its members, it is our policy that children do not attend functions and tours, except in the case of very young babies who are being breast-fed and/or cannot be left with a carer. Members with babies, toddlers and children are invited to join regular playgroups advertised in the SILC newsletter and special family activities. Details of contact names and numbers can be found in the newsletter.

# Advertising

## Advertising Information

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	1200 Baht
Half Page	600 Baht
Quarter Page	300 Baht
Flyer Insert	600 Baht

### Discounts

Member	25%
Annual Contract	10%
(Contracts run June to May)	

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

**Further details on advertising contact:** Teresa Carr: treindubai@yahoo.com

**Please send advertisement to:** The Editor: Jan Briggs: jan.briggs22@gmail.com

**To arrange payment contact:** The Treasurer: Betty Stewart

081 792 5367 / bettystewarto@gmail.com



## Regular Events

### Mahjong

Takes place on Wednesdays

From approx 9.30am to 2.30pm

In members homes

Donations are appreciated towards our Welfare Charities.

Guests very welcome, 200b/session

**Contact: Betty Stewart**

**081 792 5367**

**bettystewarto@gmail.com**



### Golf in Samutprakarn

SILC has a number of keen golfers in its midst. There are a couple of groups who play in the area at a variety of courses along the Bangna Trad. Some of us are beginners and others have more experience so if you want a game at any level then please get in touch. Even if you are new to the game it's totally different playing on a course to the driving range, so give it a try.

**Contact: Betty Stewart**

**081 792 5367**

**bettystewarto@gmail.com**



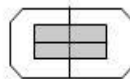
SILC now has a dropbox account which will make it easier for you to share documents related to SILC, especially for sending articles and photographs in for the newsletter. Each month I will create a file for the newsletter that you can drop your things into.

Our details are:

Username: silcthai@gmail.com

Password: bangkok2012

Many thanks, Jan, SILC Newsletter Editor



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For further information contact Terence Moriarty on 02-391-5670 or 02-712-8503.

# February Coffee Morning

## Breakaway Skills

How safe do you feel when you are on the streets of a big city, particularly on your own? Do you ever wonder what you would do if someone tried to attack you? Well, wonder no more because we will give you all the tools you need to keep you safe on the streets.

Come along to our February Coffee Morning and hear what Aaron Le Boutillier has to say on staying safe and looking out for ourselves. Don't be put off by thinking you need to be superfit or super-strong and be dressed in your best gym gear! There is nothing very strenuous involved, just some simple moves to get out of a potentially threatening situation. Although gym gear is not required, you may want to leave your best stilletos or wedges in the wardrobe and dress comfortably.

Aaron gives his time freely to ladies groups and other organisations as his contribution to "giving back to society", however, there will be a charge for the morning so that all proceeds can go to support our worthy projects.

**Hope to see you all there for a fun morning!**

**When :** Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February

**Where:** Bangkok Patana School, Sports Hall  
Multi-purpose Room Sph201

**Time:** 10.30am

**Cost:** 300 baht – all proceeds to SILC projects

**R.S.V.P.:** by Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> February to  
Teresa Carr on 0855568151 or  
treindubai@yahoo.com

**Please bring a plate to share as usual.**

More information on opposite page →





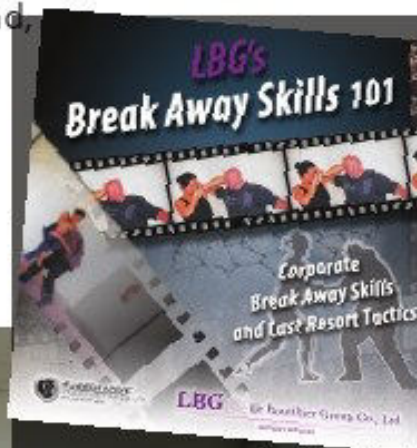
## Breakaway Skills Course



LBG is a leader in breakaway skills and last resort tactics training for corporations looking at training their staff in how to deal with conflict, both in the workplace and whilst traveling. LBG's C.E.O., Aaron Le Boutillier, has traveled the world designing and delivering training.

Our training is equally suited to men and women alike. Recognising that women business travelers face the additional threat of sexual assault, LBG has also developed a programme specifically tailored to woman travelers and has also produced a DVD to assist in remembering the simple techniques after the course.

Be it for personal self defense, corporate duty of care issues, or part of a team building weekend, LBG break away skills training is a must.



Tel: +66 878842122 Info: [aaron@leboutilliergroup.com](mailto:aaron@leboutilliergroup.com)  
[www.leboutilliergroup.com](http://www.leboutilliergroup.com)

# February Tour

## A TASTY WAY TO EXPLORE BANGKOK

This month we go on a walking tour to explore amazing tastes and sights of historic Bangrak, the more than 100-year old culinary neighborhood.

During this 3 hour walking tour we combine food-tasting and off the beaten track sightseeing.

Set along the bank of the Chao Praia River, Bangrak is the district famous among Thais for its diverse local flavors.

During our walk we will meet and engage with restaurant owners and try samples of their delicious food. The walk will cover 5 tasting locations and 8 samples (enough for lunch!).

We will also cross the Chao Praia River for some great views.



**When:** Tuesday February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013

**Time & Place:** 09:30 am meet at exit 3 of BTS Saphan Taksin (start at BTS station closest to you, or we can meet at BTS Bangna and travel together)

**Costs:** THB 800 per person, 20 people maximum (BTS at own expenses).

If you like to join on this walking tour, please send email to [mariska.abrahams@hotmail.com](mailto:mariska.abrahams@hotmail.com)

**Closing date:** Friday February 15<sup>th</sup>.



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



# February Lunch

**BAAN KHANITHA AT FIFTY THREE**  
**31 Soi Sukumvit 53**  
**ON**  
**TUESDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2013**  
**AT 12 NOON**



Lunch this month is at 'Baan Khanitha at Fifty Three' which is a modern multi level dining room serving authentic Thai cuisine.

There will be a choice of 2 set menus and of course A la Carte.

**Menu A - 500Baht ++ per person**

Deep fried spring rolls  
or  
Spicy green papaya and carrot salad  
Spicy River prawns soup with mushrooms and Thai herbs  
or  
Stir fried bok choy with mushroom in oyster sauce  
Steamed Jasmine rice  
Sticky rice and mango served with coconut ice cream  
Tea or Coffee

**Menu B - 600 Baht ++ per person**

Deep Fried Chicken wrapped in pandanus leaves  
or  
Spicy pomelo salad with shrimps, chicken, ground peanuts and roast coconut  
Spicy river prawns soup with mushroom and Thai herbs  
or  
Stir fried beef with oyster sauce  
Steamed Jasmine rice/Brown rice  
Sticky rice and mango served with coconut ice cream  
Tea or Coffee

Any drinks will be at an extra cost.

If you would like to join this lunch please RSVP – Jo Thomas –  
[johannethomas@hotmail.com](mailto:johannethomas@hotmail.com) by Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> February



# Crystal Awareness Workshop:

## Introduction to Crystals and Crystal Therapy

This is a 2 day seminar conducted by Ingeborg Leutwiler. Ingeborg is from Switzerland and has been residing in Thailand for the last 35 years. She has been working with stones and crystals for the last 25 years and she is known to many as "The Stone Lady".

Ingeborg is a Karuna and Reiki Master and Teacher. She is a well-known Crystal and Colour healing therapist and she also does energy reading for people. She speaks fluent German, Danish, Spanish, English and some French and Thai (so if you don't quite understand English, you can still join this seminar).



For the 2 day seminar, Ingeborg will talk about:

Introduction to crystals and what crystals can do for you Crystal formation and the energy of crystals Choosing a crystal Healing with crystals Protecting with crystals Balancing with crystals	The Chakra system/aura Grounding Crystal meditation Crystal layout Programming Possible side effects Cosmic life force energy Ways on how to cleanse your crystal
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Date: 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday and Wednesday) February 2013

Venue: 89/17 Tippawan Village, Soi 21, Thepharak Road (See Map Opposite)

Time: 9:00 am – 10:30 am – 15 minute coffee break

10:45 am – 12 noon – 1 hour lunch break

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm – 15 minute coffee break

2:45 pm – 4:30 pm  
(Same for both days)

Fee for the 2 day seminar: THB 7,000 per participant.

Each participant will also get a complimentary set of Chakra stones (7 pieces) and a set of yin and yang stones. You will also get a set of learning notes and a booklet on crystal healing. Lunch and coffee break (light refreshments and snacks) are also included in the fees for both days.

In order for each participant to enjoy full attention, Ingeborg will limit the intake to a maximum of only 10 people for this seminar.

The venue is Anna Leong's new stone shop, "Back to Stone-Age". On that day you get to see and enjoy and buy Anna's crystal and stones at a 10% discount. Anna has over 150 types of high quality tumbled and natural stones and crystals to choose from.

Please confirm your attendance by SMS or email to either:

Ingeborg Leutwiler

Anna Leong

Tel: 089 699 1178

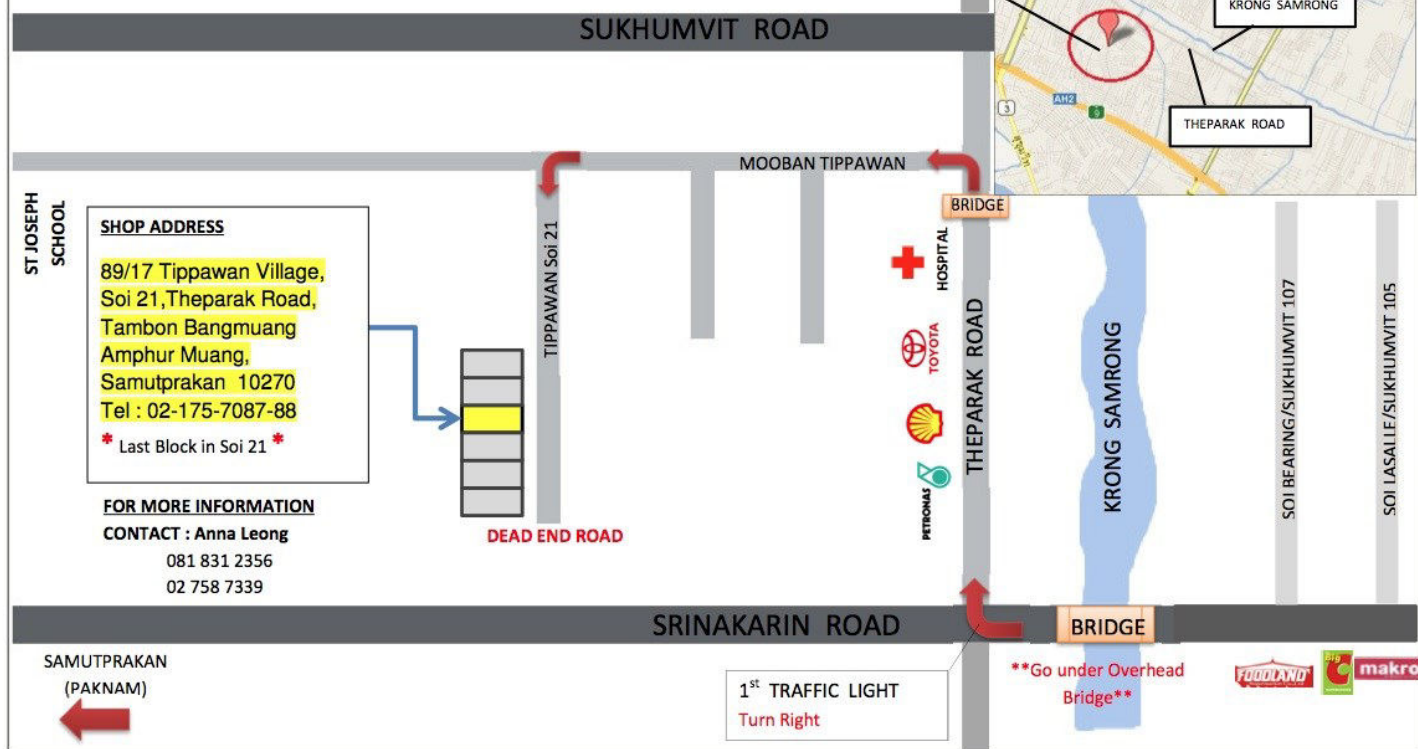
Tel: 081 831 2356

Email: [inge.bkk@gmail.com](mailto:inge.bkk@gmail.com)

Email: [annalmh@truemail.co.th](mailto:annalmh@truemail.co.th)

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## Christmas Lunch Review - Dec 13th 2012 by Jane Campton

It started so well. The venue for this year's Silc Christmas Coffee and Lunch was Durty Nelly's Irish bar on soi Ekkamai. The decor is traditional Irish pub- traditional as in O'Neill's or the Dubliner, not traditional as in sinking poteen in someone's front room in Ballybofey with an old fella fiddling in the corner - warm and friendly with lots of rustic touches. The ambience was festive. There were lots of ladies, as glamorous as ever, from all over the world. There were even, a very rare commodity, a trio of brave chaps with us. We started with coffee and interesting conversation. Who realised the natural riches of Borneo? Who knew the people of Rotterdam are famed for their grumpiness? Who cared that my tenant had moved out, potentially leaving my house full of cat pooh? We were treated to a complimentary glass of fizz. I had one, just to be sociable.

We then sat down to a full works Christmas dinner: prawn cocktail or soup followed by turkey and all the trimmings. The bird was particularly delicious, well cooked and with that elusive moist breast my family have longed for over the years. My only vague criticism would be that I could have done with a couple of roasties to mop up the lovely gravy. The veggie choice was a wellington, an option I have always avoided as I suspect it might be made from some eco-friendly non-leather footwear, but that looked delicious too. Our waitress, fresh from being shot with a champagne cork but still smiling, offered me more fizz. I felt it rude to refuse.



The raffle, with a selection of great prizes, was then drawn. Sadly Mr. C and I will have to finance our own weekend away as, yet again, I failed to win the star prize, this time a luxury weekend in Phuket. In fact I failed to win anything, although my dining companion reassured me that this meant I would be lucky in love. I must point this out to Mr Campton.

Our thanks go to the following for the generous donation of our raffle prizes: Shirley Tan, Jo Thomas, Teresa Carr, Sue Bailey, Chris Rajakarier, Annie The-loudou, Durty Nelly's Pub, Home of Grace & Suzie Jhanji. The raffle raised 8000THB. Thank you to you all for purchasing raffle tickets and making this part of our lunch such a success.

A yummy crème brulee followed for me, whilst others chowed down on proper Christmas pud and custard. Some even squeezed in a mince pie but it was a bit too much of a Man v. Food challenge for me. I had another top up instead, for medicinal purposes you understand.



Our chairman spoke, thanking the restaurant for their splendid food and friendly service and also thanking our outstanding Welfare team for their recent successes with the Cookbook and the Bazaar. There was some rather unkind heckling requesting that she stand on a chair but at least no-one asked her if she was doing panto this year. Then it was time for secret Santa. At home it had felt witty and charming to wrap a home-made and inappropriate gift but now it seemed down right foolhardy.

As lovely gift after lovely gift was opened and traded, I was seriously sweating (even more than usual) that my gift would go down like a lead balloon. Chris nearly got some beautiful lanterns, a number of times, but she took it all with grace and good humour. ( Unlike someone at mahjong the day before who got most protective over some festive plates....) It was my gift's turn but I needn't have worried, Joanna pulled on her Santa pants with abandon! (Apparently she wore them over the holiday too. My apologies to Mr Junge for the sheer scale of 'em). I was second to last, so I had another slosh to keep me going.





Finally it was my go - should I choose a small but beautifully wrapped gift or a whopper, more interestingly wrapped. (Come on, fess up, who thought an upside down ice-cream wrapper was a stylish alternative to wrapping paper?) I went for the little package and got my comeuppance - a pair of gold lame knickers just this side of decent. The wine ensured I then paraded these, inadvertently back to front, over my dress....

Many thanks to Jo and Theresa for organizing such a splendid and festive start to the holidays. Thanks to the ever smiling staff of Dirty Nellys, though quite what they thought of a half-cut farang wearing her drawers on the outside I'm not quite sure!

PS. An update for those who remember my last column. Sadly Chris's steamed fish didn't have the desired effect but Mr. C's spirits have been lifted considerably by my secret Santa gift. He suits the gold wonderfully well and the outfit really compliments his cute little Santa hat!



2013  
Happy new year



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Mark Leoni & family, Doctor of Chiropractic (USA)

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## What's On in Bangkok?



Tickets are on sale now for Bangkok Community Theatre's production of Noel Coward's classic comedy "**Blithe Spirit**" at The British Club, Silom Soi 18, with dinner theatre performances at 7:30pm on Thursday, Friday & Saturday, March 14th, 15th, 16th, 21st, 22nd and 23rd, 2013.

Tickets at B1200 (including dinner) are available through BCT by phone or email (087-529-3188 and [bct.th.org@gmail.com](mailto:bct.th.org@gmail.com))

Seating is limited, so book early to ensure a magically good time! For more information, please visit the BCT website at [www.bct-th.org](http://www.bct-th.org).



# January Tour Review by Marna Kirchner

Escape for a day!

It's eight o'clock on a weekday morning in True Coffee. All around can be heard the excited chatter of women, happy to see dear friends again after a month of absence, sharing holiday adventures, December family disasters, relief to have children back at school again or just catching up on the latest news. All of us are happy to be able to escape our normal routines and to undertake a small adventure.

Later, still chatting animatedly the 17 ladies are herded onto mini buses by the two guides from Spice Roads. Instantly preparations begin to get ready for the long bike ride to Koh Kret. Sunscreen is slathered on liberally, mosquito spray is applied. In my bus one girl puts on lip gloss, just in case there's an accident and a sexy ambulance worker needs to be charmed. One can never be over-prepared.

Finally we reach the drop-off point where we are to be kitted out with bikes, helmets and water. Some are delighted with their bikes, others are in despair. Some bikes are way too small for normal sized Farang women and one or two of our fellow bikers look like frogs having to cycle with their knees past their ears. Still others are unlucky enough to be given bikes with hard seats adapted for the male anatomy and very unfriendly to the tender female anatomy. After a few painful hours, this seat is finally swapped with the guides' very well padded, soft seat.

Finally we are on our way along the fairly quiet rural roads. We pass all sorts of crops and I see an actual rice plant close up for the first time. Our guide is most friendly but interprets guiding duties in the most liberal sense possible. He points out only one sort of crop (said rice plant) along the way, gets lost twice and brings us to the lunch venue too early. It turns out to still be closed, which is just as well as we stuffed our faces on delicious, cool and juicy fruit just half an hour earlier. Feeling very virtuous about having such a healthy snack, we immediately supplemented the calories we just rode off by scoffing chocolates, crisps and coke. No need to shock the body with too much healthy stuff, for goodness sake!

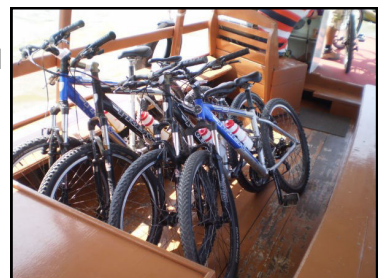
After crossing the river on ferries we finally arrive on Koh Kret, the small man-made island that is the home of the Mon community and known for its beautiful pottery. There are no cars allowed on the island and the ride on the raised concrete paths is lovely and peaceful. We pass well kept little houses, many with their own potted gardens and friendly industrious people going about their daily business. Our biking skills are tested to the limit on the narrow, winding roads, with sharp bends everywhere. There are one or two crashes, but nothing too serious and fortunately no need to call ambulances, sexy drivers or not!

There are two stops on the island, one at a pottery manufacturing site, where, sadly, the traditional brick kiln has been sidelined in favour of a very unattractive modern kiln. We have the opportunity to admire the beautiful, intricately made pottery pieces before moving on to our next stop, a local Wat. Here we sample some fried spiced morning glory and coconut - absolutely delicious and much better than crisps. On our way back we stop for a group photo at the best known symbol of Koh Kret, the leaning, chedi that can easily be spotted from a boat on the river.

Crossing back over the river, we try the lunch venue again and are pleasantly surprised by a table crammed with delectable Thai fare. All our usual favourites are included: spicy Tom Yum Kung, pork curry, chicken with cashew nuts, vegetables in oyster sauce, fried pork and rice, washed down with bottles of coke and water - to die for after such exertion!

Sadly, the end of lunch signals the end of the day. Now all that is left is to agree on how far we cycled so we can brag to our husbands and boyfriends about how hard we worked today and about how many thousands of calories we must have burned. Questioning the guide results in estimates ranging anywhere from fifteen kilometres to thirty five kilometres. We all agree that it must have been thirty five kilometres if not further, and as proof of this, we point to our sore bums and stiff muscles. But, truth be told, between you and me, I think it was closer to fifteen. Nevertheless, another interesting day in Bangkok drew to a close as we all returned to the real world, picking up children and getting on with the normal routine...

Thanks to Mariska Abrahams for organising such a delightful trip!



# International Schools celebrate Bangkok: World Book Capital 2013

By Sally Flint, Head of Libraries, Bangkok Patana School

To celebrate Bangkok being the UNESCO World Book Capital 2013, some of the leading international schools in and around the capital are joining together to run the Bangkok Book Awards with the winning book announced on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2013.

Josie Crimp, Head of Libraries, at Shrewsbury International School has spearheaded the project, supported by the other participating schools including Bangkok Patana School, The City School, Concordian International School, Garden International School (Rayong), International School Eastern Seaboard (ISE), KIS International School, New International School of Thailand (NIST) and Regent's School Pattaya.

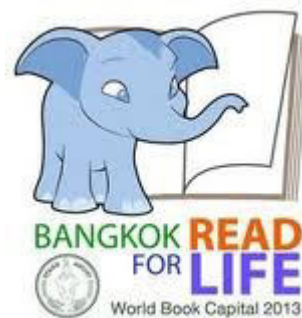
The participating schools are voting for the best children's and teen fiction set in Thailand. There are three shortlists; the **Picture Book Award** for younger children, the **Junior Book Award** for older children and the **Teen Book Award** for teens and adults. The shortlist was compiled by librarians and teachers from the participating schools. It aims to show a breadth of culture and ranges from the traditional to the modern.

Matt Mills, Head of Bangkok Patana School, explains more. "This is a superb opportunity to celebrate reading and to enjoy books written by Thai authors and books set in and about Thailand. We are delighted to be part of this project. It has been advertised widely to our community and we are hoping that our students, staff and parents will take the opportunity to borrow books from our libraries and vote in the competition. It is a privilege to be able to learn so much about our host country."

It is a great honour for Bangkok to be chosen as UNESCO World Book Capital 2013 and this is one small gesture by the participating schools to recognise the city's status and to promote reading. Prominent authors such as Botan, R. P Harris, Carolyn Marsden and Colin Cotterill have been delighted to have been chosen for the shortlist and are supporting the competition by providing interviews, answering questions and sharing publication material. Children in all the schools have been encouraged to borrow and read the books and those in the Senior Section are becoming popular book club choices.

Karen Wright, Head of Human Resources at Bangkok Patana School stated, "My book club has chosen to read 'Letters from Thailand' by Botan. I am learning so much about Thai, Chinese and even Western culture through reading the book and anticipate some lively discussion at our next meeting!"

Should you find yourself in need of something to read over the coming weeks why not choose one of the titles on the Bangkok Book Awards shortlist? If you are a member of one of the participating school's communities don't forget to vote for your favourite book. More information about the competition can be found at <http://blogs.shrewsbury.ac.th/bkkbookawards/>.



## Shortlist for the Bangkok Book Awards:

### Picture Books

Hush! by Mingfong Ho

Umbrella Queen by Shirin Bridges

A Path of Stars by Anne Sibley O'Brien

Juk's Adventure in Bangkok by Meng Lin Chen & Michael Kirjon

### Junior Books

White Elephant by Sid Fleischman

The Happiness of Kati by Jane Veijaviva

Silk Umbrellas by Carolyn Marsden

Tua and the Elephant by R.P. Harris

### Teen Books

Carrion Floating by Chart Korbjitti

Grandad there's a Head on the Beach by Colin Cotterill

Escaping the Tiger by Laura Manivong

Letters from Thailand by Botan

Behind the Painting by Siburapha

# SILC Book Club - October Meeting

**When:** Thursday 28th February

**Time:** 12-2pm

**Where:** Betty Stewart's house  
191/4 Lakeside Villa 2, Bangna Trad Km 7.5

**Book:** Baby by JK Accini and House of Silence by Linda Gilliard.

**More Details:** Contact Julie at [jnjinjulie@gmail.com](mailto:jnjinjulie@gmail.com) or 082369200

Please come even if you haven't read the book. We will discuss books in general and future books.  
Hope to see you there!



The Neilson Hays Library is delighted to present a performance by **THE LERMONTOV QUARTET** on Thursday February 28th, 2013 at 7:30pm.



This exclusive evening of fine chamber music will take place inside the beautiful Neilson Hays Library, with all proceeds raised from the concert going to the library maintenance fund.

Featuring Jonathon Glonek (violin), Inga Causa (violin), Colin Wrubleski (viola) and Marcin Szawelski (cello), the Lermontov Quartet will perform three great works for string quartet:

- Beethoven Quartet No.4 in C minor Op 18 No 4
- Mendelssohn Quartet No.3 in D Major Op 44 No 1
- Dvorak Quartet No.12 "The American" Opus 96 in F major.

**Bookings** can be made with the NHL Office Manager Khun Mae by email [neilson.library@gmail.com](mailto:neilson.library@gmail.com) or Tel. 02-233-1731

**Ticket prices:** Non-Members - 700 baht;

NHL Members - 500 baht; Students - 350 baht.

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10500 Thailand.  
Tel: 02-233-1731,  
Fax: 02-233-4999.  
[www.neilsonhayslibrary.com](http://www.neilsonhayslibrary.com)



# Bulletin Board

## Oil Request

We need approximately 96 bottles every two weeks. This is hard to come by so at the moment we are aiming to donate the 96 bottles at least once a month.

The ladies in the slums are aware that they cannot get it all the time now and they are trying to spare it.

So please if you think of it can you throw a bottle of cheap oil in your shopping basket every week and donate it to this well deserved cause!!

Donations to Kay at [hickey.kay@hotmail.com](mailto:hickey.kay@hotmail.com) Phone: 086 511 2442

Donations can be left with your link lady or brought to any SILC event

## Drinks Can Ring Pulls:

While you are enjoying your cool fizzy drinks, please try to remember to pick up as many of the ring pulls as you can for the Prosthetic Limb Foundation

Contact: Teresa Carr:  
[treindubai@yahoo.com](mailto:treindubai@yahoo.com)

Or bring along to any SILC event.

## Toothbrushes for the Pre-schools:

The time has come around for the toothbrush we provided to each child last year to be replaced.

They are obviously using them well as the brushes are looking very worn and the children's smiles are very bright!

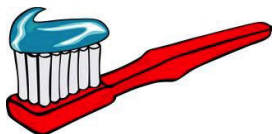
When we have enough toothbrushes we will arrange for the Dental Nurses to visit the schools again and check the children's teeth.

We need **200 toothbrushes suitable for ages 3 to 6**. They can be found in most supermarkets with a small tube of toothpaste attached for around 30b.

Please consider picking one up with your shopping and passing on to our welfare team or bring along to any SILC event.

Thank you

Chris



## For Sale:

**Jump Dancer** automatic skipping game. Suitable for age 6 up. Can automatically turn a skipping rope for single play or use as a ground based rope with ball to jump over for up to four players. Bought from UK but no longer used.

500baht.

Contact:

Jan: [jan.briggs22@gmail.com](mailto:jan.briggs22@gmail.com)



## WANTED:

**2nd Hand large TV** needed for Prakkasamai Pre School as theirs has broken.

If you have a large TV you no longer require please contact Chris Rajakarier:

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



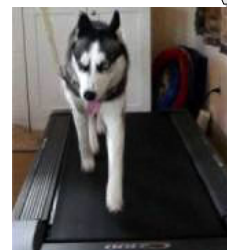
## WANTED:

**Treadmill**, wanted for my Siberian husky.

Smaller model would be best.

Contact Julie

at: [jnjinjulie@gmail.com](mailto:jnjinjulie@gmail.com) or 0823369200



# New Members



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

Geraldine McEvoy: 082 204 9470  
mcevger@gmail.com

## New Members Nov/Dec:

Amanda Schranz  
Ariya Islam  
Melanie Upham  
Nisa Young

## Welcome to SILC

### 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:  
jan.briggs22@gmail.com

### New Address:

Marit van den Oetelaar  
1701/66 Moobaan Nantawan  
Onnut 44  
Bangchak Prakanong  
Bangkok 10260

Landline: 02-741-1817

Please update your directory.

Hi, all SILC International Ladies Club

Thank you for the warm welcome. Nice to see you. I play tennis with the Patana ladies team in the morning. They have mentioned SILC to me. I am very pleased to join you as a member.

My husband and myself love to play tennis, we play together in tournaments for lots of years. We just love to play tennis. We are members of the British Club for more than 20 years. When I mentioned SILC to my husband, he said joining is a good thing to do.

Anyway, not very much to tell about me. I'm easy to get on with, just simple and happy. I like to share in happiness and hope to experience this and more from your group.

**Nisa Young**

Don't forget to visit our website:

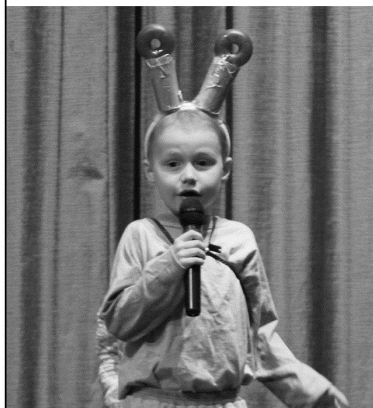
[www.silcthailand.com](http://www.silcthailand.com)



## *Developing Knowledge and Understanding*



## *Inspiring Creativity*



**A**t Bangkok Patana we provide the essential rigour of a British curriculum incorporating best practice from other programmes to reflect our international setting. Our aim is to nurture and develop a lifelong love of learning in our young students.

## *Encouraging Curiosity*



**A**t key points within the Primary School we benchmark ourselves against UK schools using National Curriculum Tests. In 2012 over 96% of our Year 2 students achieved their age-related expectation, or above, compared to 87% in the UK.

## *Building Confidence*



**W**e also understand the importance of learning outside the classroom. Extensive opportunities for children to flourish and develop their personal interests are provided through our varied extra-curricular activities programme.

To find out how our child-centred approach to learning and outstanding teaching staff can help your child fulfil their potential from 2 1/2 to 18 years of age, please contact us at [admissions@patana.ac.th](mailto:admissions@patana.ac.th)

[www.patana.ac.th](http://www.patana.ac.th) | +66 (0) 2398 0200 | 643 LaSalle Road (Sukhumvit 105), Bangna, Bangkok



# Patana Yr3 Christmas Gift to Prakkasamai

12<sup>th</sup> December 2012 (12-12-12) what a great day for a lovely event. It all started with the idea of doing with our kids something special for Christmas time. The main reason was to rescue the spirit of this special time of the year. The most important, an activity where they can participate and learn something. ***There is nothing better than being thankful and celebrate by giving something to others less fortunate.***

Next step was to find a sponsor. So, we went to GLOW Company Limited. They offered 100 backpacks to the Pre-School In Prakkasami supported by SILC, for a value of 25.000 baht. It was supposed to limit this activity as a Christmas donations only from Year 3M to the children.

Suddenly, we went for bigger. So, we decided to involve the whole Year Group and asked for help to the class mothers. All thanks to our lovely teacher Miss Claire Myers, who got moved immediately when we told her about this project. With her support and the generous action of every class mum we collect enough to full these backpacks with basics but very useful things as soap, face towels, toothpaste and toothbrush, pencils, crayons, socks, milk, water thermos, note pads and cookies. In the process, the children of Year 3 packed all the bags in advance with grit and determination.

Next step was to bring some of the children from Prakkasamai to Patana to receive in person the donations during Year 3 Assembly. The motto is "children give to children". Ten children were invited along with two Teachers. We transported them in two cars. When they arrived at school their faces were pressed against the windows all buzzing with excitement. The doors swung open and the children clambered over each other in the rush to get out. We watched them as they were led into assembly. There were no nerves, no stage fright just pure happiness and pride that they were the chosen ones. Once of the teacher explained who the Prakkasamai children were. They were presented with their backpacks by the Year 3 student council.

After this, they were allowed to play in the adventure playground, each child with a student from Patana. They instinctively found their way and easily integrated with the other children effortlessly. No language or cultural differences were apparent as they climbed, jumped and hung on the monkey bars. A little snack was waiting for them. But there was a little extra play area with some toys. They rushed with their milk and cakes to be able to play some more before leaving.

After checking out the fish in the pond and the Christmas trees, taking a lot of pictures in every corner. The children were chauffeured back to their school. There were a lot of happy faces appearing from the car window screaming and waving as they drove off!!

Sometimes you look into these children eyes and wonder what could be going on in their minds. Maybe they are just enjoying the moment with the natural innocence of a child. I heard that if a Thai has nothing to give at least they will give you smile and that is exactly what we got. The innocence of a sweet smile J

**We wish you a Happy New Year and many smiles!**

SILC Welfare Team.





# Christmas fun at the Preschools



Happy Children at Chanukroh

By the time you are reading this, Christmas is long gone and only 11 months are left from 2013, but for me the Christmas celebrations at the pre-schools we sponsor are one of the highlights of the year.

Phin, Shirley and Chris had been to Chinatown to buy several things for the gift bags, such as girls' and boys' underwear, socks, cuddly turtles, pencils, erasers and some candy. Some of us started preparing the gift bags and in the meantime the others started to set things up for the craft activities.

The first activity the kids had to do was decorating an ornament for a Christmas tree. The tree was made of green shiny paper which was taped on the wall of the classroom. The teachers had prepared a passport size photo of each child which we glued on the ornament. Then the children could use stickers and coloring pencils to decorate their ornaments. When finished the ornaments were taped on the tree. The result was fantastic!

The second activity was outside as it was a bit messier with a lot of glitter! First the kids received a small paper Christmas tree on which they had to stick glue. Not just regular glue but they could use small baking shapes (stars, hearts, circles, etc.) which they then dipped in different colors of paint so that the outline of the shape appeared on their tree. As a final step they had to pour various colors of glitters over the paint so that it got stuck to the paper. The results were once again amazing! Of course did the glitter not only end up on the trees but also on the faces of some of us (Chris?!!).





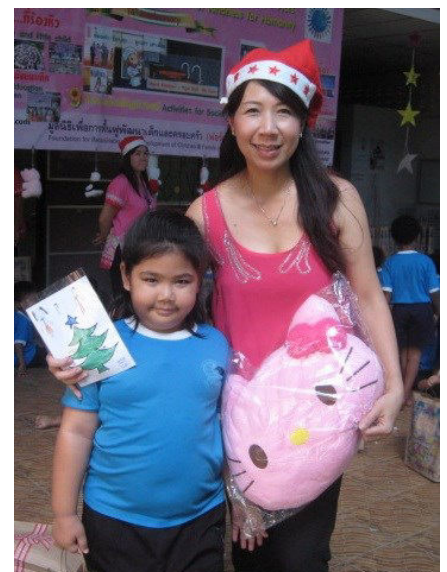


Children with their glittery trees, from left to right: Chanukroh, Prakkasamai & Mahawong

However nice these two activities were, the climax of the morning was the presence of Santa Claus! At each preschool a different welfare helper was transformed into a real Santa Claus with a big belly and beard and handed out the gift bags to each child. Some of the children were very impressed by him and were even a bit scared whereas others had no problem sitting on his lap. We also had a small gift for the teachers in the form of a wallet with some money.

Once again this was a very rewarding morning with lots of smiling faces, and that is the main reason for me at least to continue helping out at these activities. A big THANK YOU! to all the ladies who helped to spread some seasonal happiness around Mahawong, Chanukroah & Prakkasamai.

Bianca



Santa hands out gifts to the children at Mahawong (left) and Prakkasamai (middle)  
Shirley hands over an extra gift to Sumetha, the girl that SILC sponsors.



# Bilingual Bites Sales Blitz in Bangkok by Karyn Walker

It was wonderful to celebrate the launch of Bilingual Bites at the Anantara Riverside Hotel in November but after the celebrations and champagne it was time for some serious selling. The flurry of sales at the launch was a great start and it was so exciting to see people queuing up to buy – with around 200 copies immediately snapped up!

In the weeks following the launch, SILC members hunted down potential buyers with an intensity rarely seen. No stone was left unturned or rather, no neighbor, friend or opportunity was ignored in the bid to sell as many books as possible and boost the funds available for Welfare projects.

Shirley and her sweet-talking sales team attended several events, including the ECB Church Christmas Tea and the BWG Christmas Lunch, both held at the lovely Chatrium Hotel. Both proved to be great sales venues with 36 sales at the Tea and 30 at the Lunch.

SILCs own Bazaar yielded a wonderful total of 80 sales leading to speculation that wearing a crazy wig could just be the ultimate sales weapon.

As you would expect, the aptly named Feeding Frenzy at Patana resulted in lots of sales with 23 books being sold to happy and possibly hungry customers.

The International Creator Fair held in town saw a further 10 copies fly off the shelf.

There is no doubt that the book really hit the spot in the pre-Christmas sales period, particularly with Shirley's beautiful packaging and hand painted utensils adding the 'wow' factor.

Thank you to everyone who helped recommend and sell Bilingual Bites at events and to their network of friends. A brilliant effort by all and so satisfying now to be able to hang up the "SOLD OUT" sign! Anyone ready to start on Bilingual Bites Volume 2?



BWG Christmas Lunch



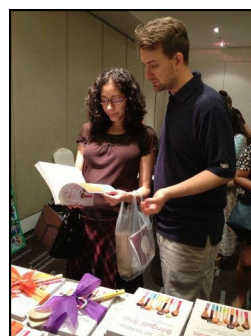
SILC Bazaar sales



Thai Translation Team  
Top: Shirley, Noot, Palm  
Bottom: Songsri, Kay, Phin



Feeding Frenzy sales





# Prakkasamai Sports & Family Day by Teresa Carr

Sometimes it can be a little daunting being the only “farang” around, as I was at the Prakkasamai sports and family day. I need not have worried though about “being out of place” because after the initial interested looks, everyone was so lovely and friendly.

There was a great turn-out from the parents, both mums and dads, who had come to see their children take part in the games, watch the dancing and join in the fun. Each team was dressed in a different colour and even had their own set of cheerleaders. Some of the girls were very dressed up with full make-up, gloves and hair accessories. I did feel very sorry for some of the girls who were sweating a lot under their make-up and their proud mums had to keep blotting their faces!

Most of the games involved only the children, but we were invited to take part in a race which needed the help of a few adults. A group of children sat on a mat and then the mat had to be lifted up and raced to the line by their adult helpers. Phin and Bee stepped up to the mark for the blue team and won their race – well done girls! After the games was a display of dancing – the cheerleaders and Hawaiian dancers in their grass skirts and flower leis were so funny dancing Gangnam style!!

Although we had brought some food to contribute to the day, there was an overwhelming amount of food there of all kinds – sausages, noodles, crisps, meatballs. My personal favourite was the cones of delicious coconut ice-cream which you had to ladle out yourself from large vats – yum!! The car company, Hino, had sponsored most of the day and they were invited as honoured guests at the end of the day. We snuck off at the start of the “thank you” speeches with an ice-cream cone in hand, happy that we had been part of a great family activity.





# Bilingual Bites & Bake Sale at Feeding Frenzy by Fiona Campbell

An opportunity arose to sell Bilingual Bites, amongst all the other sales events, at the Feeding Frenzy international swim meet held at Bangkok Patana School on Saturday and Sunday, 8 & 9 December.

We thought the hungry swimmers would also appreciate some home baking and they certainly did, especially anything with chocolate in it! Our SILC members baked some wonderful cakes, and also gave their time to work on the stall over the two days. Some members also had children swimming at the meet and managed to fit in time on the stall with cheering and supporting their swimming stars.

It was a very successful weekend with 23 books sold and 10,050 Baht taken from the sale of the cakes.

A huge thank you to all our SILC bakers, our wonderful helpers, Phin, Palm, Shirley, Mariska, Khun Tanum, Bianca, Fiona, Audrey, Marianne and to our special little helpers, Phin's daughters, Farrah and Angelina.

## Flag Making Activity

Armed with Julie's bag full of scissors, colours, tape, photocopies and things you never knew existed we turned at the Pre-schools in November for the fun activity of making flags. Each child was given a flag to colour and the difficulty was trying to get the right colours in the right areas. Even when it went wrong they smiled at you with their toothy grins and it didn't matter anymore. The important part was they were enjoying their time with us and we were enjoying our time with them.



When the colouring was over all that was left was to cut out the flag and tape a wooden stick at the side and the final product a good looking Thai flag. The children waved their flags in the air and sang their National Anthem to us. Some of the SILC ladies who have been here long enough knew when to raise their flags and others just stabbed irrationally in the air. Causing the Teachers and children alike to have a good time. There was not a serious face in the room.



When it was finally time to prize ourselves away from the songs and giggles we had a resounding KUP KHUN KA and every hand waved us on our way!



### THE WELFARE TEAM



# SILC Accounts

<u>Summary Accounts 'till end of December 2012</u>	
<u>Income</u>	-
Subscriptions	฿ 800
Advertising	฿ 1,800
CookBook Sales	฿ 104,000
Interest	฿ 1,029
Mahjong Donations	฿ 1,000
Cake Sales	฿ 9,950
Xmas Lunch	฿ 8,400
Income SILC Tables Bazaar	฿ 4,260
Total Income	฿ 131,239
<u>Operating Expenses:</u>	
Newsletter costs	฿ 418
Producing Cookbook & Apron	฿
WEB hosting and Computer	฿
Membership Directories	฿ 709
SILC Xmas Lunch	฿ 5,000
Total Operating Expenses	฿ 6,127
<u>Charitable Payments:</u>	
Mahawong	฿ 5,460
Christmas	฿ 9,019
Chanukroh School	฿ 3,438
TOTAL SILC Charitable Payments	฿ 17,917
Net Operating Profit	฿107,196
<u>SAMUTPRAKARN INTERNATIONAL LADIES CLUB</u>	
<u>BALANCE SHEET</u>	
Opening Balance of Members' equity	฿ 500,492
Net Operating Profit	฿ 107,196
Total Equity	฿ 607,688



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