



Busy Bees + Busy Ladies!

Dear Ladies and Agora friends,

Traffic ... is movement
in daily's life.

Both: traffic and movement are very important
and mean being busy in all situations of life.

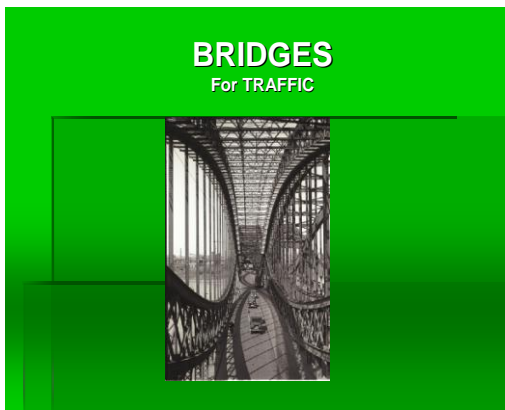
So WE are: busy and in movement!

We support the ISP of LCI as well as
national and local service projects.

We ACT with building bridges between
our international friends by
writing, visiting each other, and travelling
together.

„BUILDING BRIDGES“

In continued friendship,
Elisabeth Hiller, ACI President 2011-2012



www.agoraclubinternational.com

NEWSLETTER 8:

May 2012



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26-05-2012 AGM AC South Africa in Ermelo

02-06-2012 AGM AC The Netherlands in Groningen

07-06-2012 AGM AC Israel in Haifa

09-06-2012 AGM AC Italy in Vicenza

15-06-2012 AGM AC Morocco in Casablanca

16-06-2012 AGM AC France in Vannes

16-06-2012 AGM AC Romania in Brasov

23-06-2012 AGM AC USA in Detroit

30-06-2012 AGM AC Belgium in Beervelde

23-26-08-2012 AGM LCI in Helsingborg, Sweden

Impressions of Lübeck, city of the ACI conference in Oct. 2012



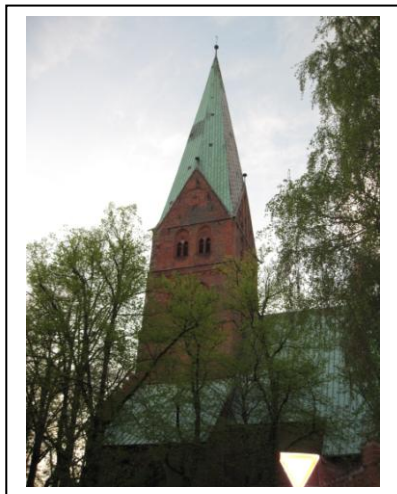
The Dome



St. Petri Church



Jacobi Church



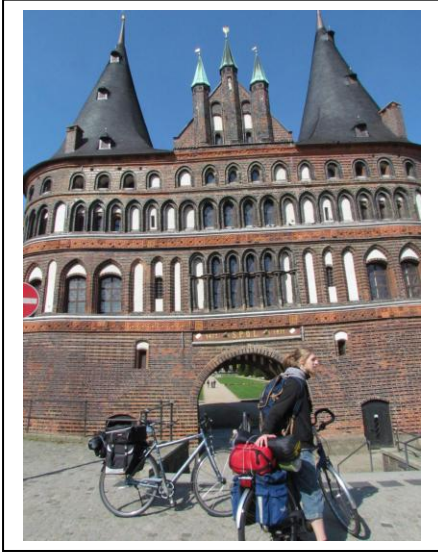
St. Aegidien Church



Marien Church

The seven green church towers of Lübeck are peeks over the city which can be seen from far away. They build the silouette of the town and can all be reached by walking distance. So they are a very good help for the orientation in the centre of the city. The architecture is typical for the Baltic region called “Backstein Gotik”.

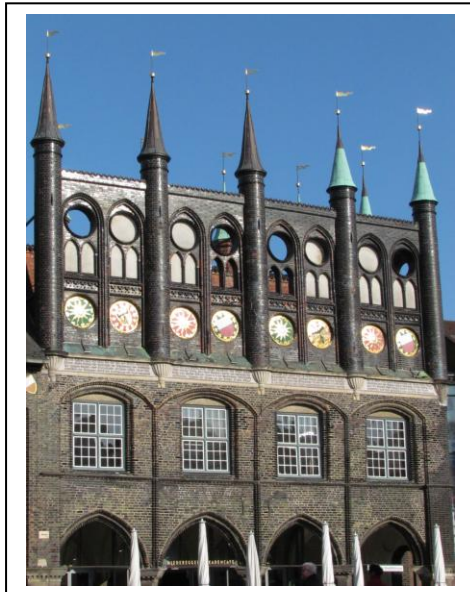
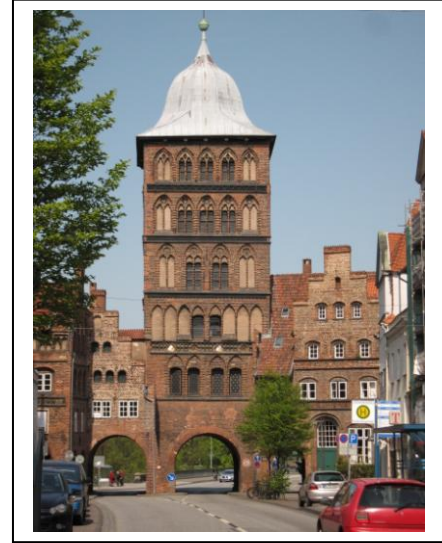
The most famous sights of Lübeck



The two
medieval
entrances into
the town:

Holstentor on
the left and

Burgtor on
the right



Two different sides of the town hall



Heiligen-Geist-Hospital

By Karen



Buddenbrookhaus



News and reports
from the board

APPEAL FOR TREASURER and VICE PRESIDENT 2012-2013

- Would you like to be part of a fun and super nice board?
- Would you like to experience international friendships?
- Would you like to be at the steering wheel of a very fast growing international organization?
- Were you member of the national Board of your country?
- Are you open minded, positive and willing to give some of your time to our wonderful international service club?
- Are you up for a new challenge in your life?

THEN YOU ARE THE RIGHT PERSON!
Join me and the rest of the team on the ACI Board!

Veerle De Jonge – Agora Club International VP 2011-2012

INDIA 2012 by Elisabeth

The AGM of 41 Club International from 19.-22. April was the reason for me to buy a ticket to India and register for their conference. I used some of my holidays to participate in the pre tour “Golden Triangle”, starting in Delhi. I think it would be of interest to all of you to share some impressions of this colourful country with me!

PRE TOUR GOLDEN TRIANGLE

A journey across this illustrious region presents several UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

On 14th April my friend Elke and I started for the pre tour to North India from Delhi via Agra with the world famous TAJ MAHAL, via Ranthambore National Park (Tiger Resort) to Jaipur by bus and partly by train. From there we flew to Chennai/Mamallapuram where the 36th AGM of 41 Club International took place.

For the first 3 days we had some trouble because of lost luggage. But, nevertheless, we had a lot of fun with the group of approx. 60 tablers and women from many different countries. We really got wonderful impressions of colorful India and we were told a lot of Indian history by our tour guide Bibi!!

Our days started every day very early in the morning between 4.30h to latest 5h and ended round midnight. So, short nights and rather long days!

We had city tours in Delhi, Agra and the “pink” town Jaipur.

We visited Agra Fort to learn about the Mogul dynasty and we observed a different perspective of Taj Mahal (from backside);

we visited unforgettable and most impressive Taj Mahal at first light of the day!

We watched a really fantastic video on the development of the tiger resort and started for a jeep safari where we observed different animals in free nature.

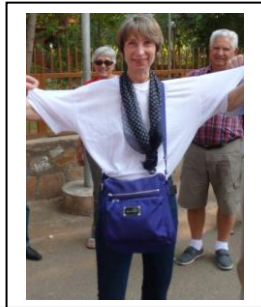
We had a short rickshaws trip in a bird national park.

In Jaipur we visited the city Palace museum and Hawa Mahal, the palace of winds; we mounted on convoy of Royal Elephants and ascended the majestic Amber Fort observing a rare perspective of battlement architecture and explored the fort to learn about the relationship between the Rajputs and Moguls.

We took part in a competition of club elephant polo in Diggi Palace.

We went for camel riding into the sand dunes and settled round a campfire for our farewell dinner with accompaniment of Gypsy dancers and soothing music of wandering Sufis.



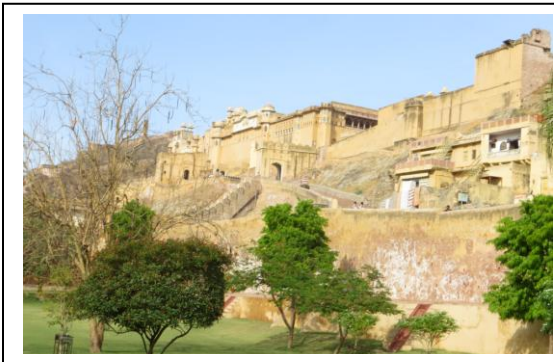


My friend Elke and I in our XXL T-shirts which we found in our "first aid" bags together with a toothbrush and a deodorant stick from Lufthansa Service Centre in Delhi Airport.

Qutab Minar/Delhi tallest monument in India



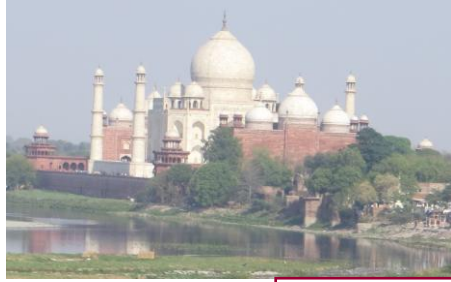
Agra Fort/Agra



Amber Fort/Jaipur



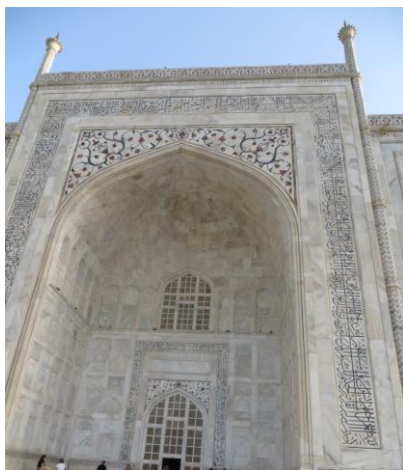
The TAJ MAHAL is a unique symbol for LOVE!
 It was built from 1631-1653 by Maharaja Shah Jahan for his main wife who died with the birth of their 14th child.
 20000 employees worked on the building which is standing on a 100 m² plate of marble; it has 58m in height, 56m in width and the marble is decorated with 28 different sorts of precious stones/half stones. Four minarets surround the TAJ in the 18 ha garden.
 In 1983 it was awarded to World Heritage.



TAJ MAHAL



← Main Entrance
vis à vis to TAJ



Entrance
to grave
→

↓ Marble handycraft & precious stones ↓



Chennai: Monuments of Mamallapuram + AGM of 41CI

Monuments of MAMALLAPURAM

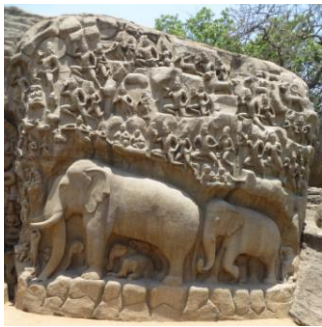
Mamallapuram dates back to the Tamil Pallava dynasty in the 7th-9th century. The structures, mostly carved straight out of granite, are among the oldest existing examples of Dravidian (South India) architecture. They are part of UNESCO Heritage.



Left:
Shore
Temple



Right:
Krishna's
Butterball



Left: Arjuna's Penance bas-relief; *middle/right:* stone carvings/temples



AGM of 41 Club International

The AGM was a good possibility to deepen existing contacts and extend new friendship. A warm welcome and hello on Friday evening, many ladies in different saris, a fantastic open air show with a delicious barbecue, dancing music, high temperatures and full moon;
AGM on Saturday morning with greetings from Agora, RTI and Tangent GB,
visiting Monuments of Mamallapuram with Shore Temple and Arjuna's Penance;
Banner Exchange, Gala Dinner with show, good temper and dancing till early morning.

Good Bye and return flights in all directions of the **41 International World**.

Thank you all for an
unforgettable time in **India!**

Elisabeth 😊



Speech at the AGM



41CI-P Jean-Louis



Jean-Louis, Elisabeth,
SID/P-41C India
KK/P-41CI 2012/13



AC 7 Venlo Ad Mosam President Carla and AC The Netherlands President Maartje, surrounded by the new members.

Charter AC 7 Venlo Ad Mosam in AC The Netherlands

Venlo is a pretty Dutch city very near to the Belgian border, so when I heard that a new Agora Club was to be chartered there, I joined AC Belgium Treasurer Karen Chaffart to this happy occasion.

What a lovely day it turned out to be! President Carla and her 16 members are very dynamic and fun loving ladies who organized the charter day to perfection : it was a warm-hearted, cozy, charming and very stylish charter day on which the Venlo ladies also proved to be very engaged in service : during the charter ceremony they handed 2000€ to the local food bank.

What a nice surprise it also was to meet a delegation of 6 ladies from AC Southend on Sea i.f. (UK) there! They stayed in Venlo for the whole charter weekend. I'm sure they got quite some inspiration for their charter in May 2013!

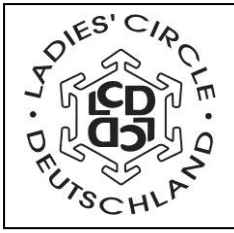
AC Venlo Ad Mosem no doubt will prove to be an asset to AC The Netherlands and to Agora Club International as a whole.

Welcome to the Agora world dear friends!

Veerle De Jonge
ACI Vice President



AC 7 Venlo Ad Mosam's beautiful logo :
The form of their club number 7
Inspired on the flow of the river Maas
(=Mosam). The City of Venlo is situated
at the curve of the river Maas.



Joint AGM of
Ladies' Circle and Tangent Club Germany
in Weiden
by Karen



In Germany Ladies' Circle and Tangent Club always have their AGM together. That means meeting friends from both organizations at the same weekend.

This year everybody was asked to wear national costumes for the Welcome party. As Weiden lies close to Bavaria, you could see many girls in the famous beautiful "Dirndls" and the boys in leather trousers.

For the welcome speeches on Saturday morning all members of both clubs gather. This year all past circlers and the active members of LC celebrated the 40. anniversary of LC Germany.



Elisabeth making her speech



Former national presidents of LC Germany
Maybe you know some of them?

For me it was a great honor to get to know Jan Dowling from Tangent Club Great Britain, who had just become national Immediate Past President at her AGM the weekend before. Dear Jan, thank you very much for coming! I enjoyed very much sharing and exchanging experiences about the common grounds and differences between our national organizations.



Jan Dowling IPP TC GB and Karen



Karen with the members of the new national board of TC Germany: Petra, Barbara, Brigitte, and Veronika

Veerle's report on her trip to Iceland, to help interested former LC members to start Agora Club in Iceland.

What is Agora Club International?



Being part of ACI is:

- Traveling to another country and know that there is a sweet friend waiting for you. Here Dagny (a friend from my Circle time) from Iceland was waiting for me at the airport.
- Having surprise meetings at unexpected places like meeting 41 Club International president KK and wife Vini at the Blue Lagoon, just after our arrival in Iceland!
- Experiencing international friendship when a group of Old Tablers from Germany who were on a pre-tour asked us to join them on their trip. Hours of talks and a bit of sleep in the bus !
- Having more "side by side" fun when Dagny invited the whole group to her summer cottage for a surprise BBQ...and enjoying the company even in minus degrees! And that evening being invited to join the gala of Old Tablers Iceland.



- Having good old Ladies Circle fun sharing a bathroom with the girls, preparing for the Gala of Old Tablers Iceland. Augusta from Akureyri was our host – a super sweet and “volcanic” lady ! (and a hairdresser!)



- Meeting old friends who home-hosted me at the time when I was in Iceland for the LCI Conference in 2005 (Hrefna and conference convenor Gudrun)...how absolutely wonderful to meet them again!



- A group of “old” friends, finding back the fun and international friendship they had in LC, and reliving it in Agora!



- YES ! AC 1 Akureyri i.f. has officially started! And just to be sure we won't lose them: here are the coordinates 65°40:745'N ☺



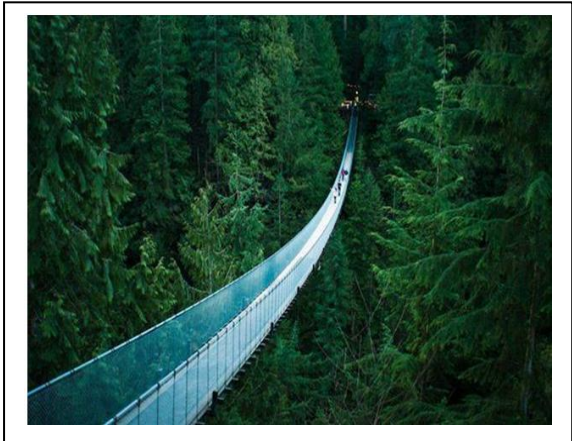
- Experiencing all these emotions again with past LC members and friends in Reykjavic. We had a fun (and chocolate) filled meeting... and YES !! AC 2 Reykjavic/Keflavic i.f. has officially started too!





Bridges

All bridges of this page were sent in by Louise Warsfold, AC Southend-On-Sea



Capilano Suspension Bridge, Vancouver, British Columbia



The Moses Bridge, The Netherlands



Tianmen Mountain, Chunan Province, China



Hubei, China



In Romania the second club in Brasov with number 3 is in formation.
 Welcome girls! Very well done!
 We received the following report from Adina-Wanda:

In the photo of the new club, from left to right are: Gabi Abagiu, Domnita Ratiu, Angela Micu, Gabi Voinea, Adina Muresan, Dora Grigori, Silvia Souca, Nora Albutiu, Nuti Cofeiu, Adela Lupu, Gentiana Stan, Sorina Barbu, and in the bottom is Viorica Bielman, the owner of this beautiful hotel and garden, and she is member of Agora nr 2.

Bye the way, ladies from other towns like Timisoara and Craiova expressed their interest to form a new Agora club. We hope they mean it.



VP Angela and President Adina from AC 2 Brasov



*Highlights of The Charter
of Club Agora 7 Venlo Ad
Mosam- 21-04-2012*



President of Agora The Netherlands, Maartje Hamers is handing over the President's "jewel" to Carla Kessler



Singing members of Mother Club Eindhoven



Reading together the document



Surprise! The first Agora The Netherlands flag.



The New proud Venlo Members



Carla is offering the cheque for the feedbank

Absolutely good news from Iceland - Dagný Leifsdóttir reports:

As you all know Veerle (Vice President ACI) and her husband Dirk were here in Iceland during the days 9 -18 May.

Her main reasons for the tour were to chat with us past LC ladies and give us some gentle push into the direction of Agora and to travel in the country with Dirk.

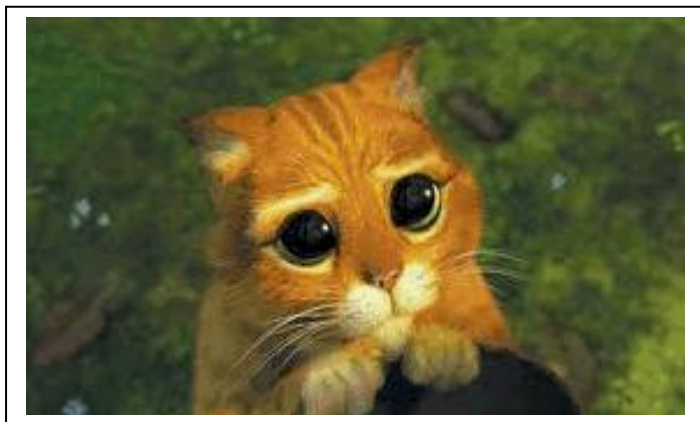
It was a successful tour for both purposes as Veerle (Vee) managed on May 12th to inspire the ladies in Akureyri to start the Agora -1 in Akureyri,

So the introduction meeting changed into inauguration meeting after Veerle opened a big box of the delicious Belgian chocolate pralines that was passed around the meeting.

Vee phoned her friend in the Belgian Agora board to ask if Belgium would want to be the Godmother country - and they said YESSSSSSSSSSSSSS.

On a similar meeting in Reykjavik may 15th for the past ladies from Reykjavik and Keflavik clubs, the chocolate pralines also did the trick.

Vee actually looked like the Puss in boots (from the Shrek movie)



but instead of holding a hat in her hand like the Puss, she held a big box of the chocolate pralines, and asked us "please join Agora " 😊

That night we formed a new Agora -2 club Reykjavik/Keflavik, but we are aware that we are a Siamese twins (Reykjavik and Keflavik) that might need a gentle diving operation - so perhaps 3 Agora clubs soon.

So in future - when we stand in front of a difficult decisions on meetings we will make sure there is enough chocolate at hand.

Vee and Dirk did a lot of tours during their stay, both on their own, with me and also together with a group of Old Tablers who were here for the AGM and Gala dinner of OT Iceland. We even joined them in a bus to and from Akureyri, had a joint Gala dinner with them in Akureyri, and we went to a farewell dinner with them too. So all of us have made a lot of new friends.

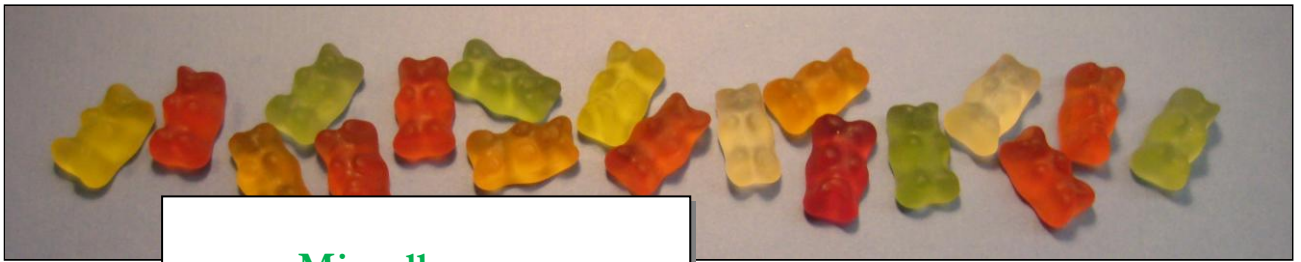
The formal Charter will take place in May next year, I will inform you when the dates are final. Under the Agora friendship there will be plenty of opportunities for reunions and getting new friends for the years to come.

To our Vee and Dirk:

Thank you for the lovely time we had together and thank you Vee for the chocolate push for starting us in Agora Iceland.

In the future we are seeing a lot of visits to Belgium and receiving visitors from Belgia to Iceland.

Yours in friendship,
Dagný Leifsdóttir



Miscellaneous



Something very special
YIFAT ROM / ISRAEL



Friendship...

Why is it so hard to write about?
I will tell you why...
Because it is very complicated...
How do you define a friend?
What do you expect from friendship?
Well, in general, it is a relationship, a bond, a chain between 2 people or more.
This relationship is based on respect and warm feelings,
And it has something to do with "being there" for each other.
This chain can be beautiful and light
Colorful and shiny
But it can also be restrictive and destructive...
For example:
Some people tend to "give" a lot in their friendship but do not know
how to "take" back from their friend.
Some people Tend to "take" but do not know how to "give" back.
Some people expect their friend to be like them and give in the "same" amount ...
...and then get disappointed.
In order to "simplify" and enjoy the "gift of friendship"
We should have friendship without any expectations and disappointments.
Just to be able to enjoy each others company
Enjoy giving from yourself to others
And
Learn how to accept the small thing you get from them.
As members of Agora Club ...
We are shiny beads on a "golden chain" of friendship that connects us.
We are friends without knowing each other personally.
When we come to a country,
Meet strange ladies who are members of Agora or Tangent
We right away feel close to them!
And knowing that you have so many friends all over the world makes you a very "rich"
person!
I feel very lucky to be a bead in this golden chain
I embrace you all
YiF
Yifat

**Wishes and Words of Friendship
from national Presidents of Tangent Countries 2012/13**

**“BUILDING BRIDGES”
between Past Circlers**



GOOD WISHES FROM TANGENT GB

Dear Ladies and Friends,

I'm very happy to say hello to Sue Marlow, National President of Tangent GB.

Our history was written in England. The 1st Ladies' Circle was founded in 1930 (!!), the first meeting with Tangent took place in 1965; the National Association of Tangent Clubs (NATC) was formed in 1970; all in Bournemouth.

Sue was elected for president on the NAGM end of April.



SUE MARLOW
National President Tangent GB



Dear Ladies!

'Thank you for the kind wishes you sent for our National Annual General Meeting, in Jersey, in April.

Our International Officer is looking forward to attending the Ladies Circle International meeting in August and meeting up with all our international friends.

May I pass our best wishes to all of your members for a successful year'.

Yicf

**Sue Marlow
National President 2012/13**

From the Swedish National Board Member Margareta on behalf of Karin:
The words of friendship are a really bridge building idea!
We would very much like to be a part of this and build bridges in the name of Friendship through Agora News.



KARIN SANDSTRÖM
National President TANGENT SWEDEN



Dear Ladies and Friends!

„Let Friendship continue“
...is Tangent Sweden's motto.

By this we mean that we continue with friendship, networking and charity in our past clubs. For many years we have all in Ladies' Circle committed to charity projects, built networks and grown friendships. Though Tangent we have a unique opportunity to deepen the friendship further.

In Friendship!

National President
Tangent Sweden



In the name of International Past Circling:

We say thanks
to Yifat for her wonderful definition of friendship.
We say thanks
to Sue and Karin for their wishes and words of friendship.

The ACI Board 2011-2012
Elisabeth, Veerle, Nikkie, Karen, Nicole

