

## Women in MANchester for Conference



**OVER 1400 WOMEN** from around the world met at the Manchester Central Convention Centre, from 21st to 23rd October, for the 76th Conference of Soroptimist International of Great Britain and Ireland, the theme of which was **“Accept the Challenge – Secure the Future”**. Delegates were inspired with the presentation of Programme work from clubs all over the Federation, illustrating the help given by Soroptimists to projects as diverse as education and sanitation in developing countries; to saving our own carbon footprints and providing tents for the National Eisteddfod in Wales.

Federation President Jackie Mosedale hosted the Conference and was delighted to welcome all our guest speakers. Bill Turnbull from the BBC Breakfast Programme spoke to us about the Bees for Development Trust, which is an International Charity to promote sustainable beekeeping in developing countries. Dr Ian Oliver, a UN Consultant on Narcotics spoke about the Global issue of “Drug Affliction” and its dangers to the world as we know it. Lesley Abdela, a woman political journalist gave a call to all women to strive for equality in global decision making, based on the UN Resolution 1325 and Satish Kumar re-energised us on the quest for global peace.



President Jackie was also delighted to welcome from Denmark, Hanne Jensbo President of Soroptimist International who stayed with us for the whole Conference and enjoyed meeting our Federation members. She also gave a talk on the work she has been involved with during her Presidential term and said she hoped to meet many of us again at the International Convention in Montreal in July 2011.



We also enjoyed evenings of fun and fellowship, forging new friendships and renewing older ones with other fellow Soroptimists. It was a thought provoking two days and we will all take back many new visions and ideas to promote in our own respective clubs.



One of the highlights of the weekend was our incoming President Liz Morgan-Lewis being interviewed by Allan Beswick of Radio Manchester on his morning show prior to the Conference starting and this in turn has led to a further interview with the BBC which will be broadcast on Radio 4 in January 2011. It is wonderful that almost ninety years after Soroptimist International was founded in Oakland, California our organisation is being given the chance to tell the world what we are all

about. More information can be found on our Conference website at:

[www.soroptimist-gbi.org/manchester-conference/](http://www.soroptimist-gbi.org/manchester-conference/)



This was the first time our Conference has been held in Manchester and it has proved to be a resounding success and we hope that one day we will be able to host another one. However we are now looking forward to the future and to renewing all our new found friendships in Brighton in October 2011 to celebrate another year of excellent Programme work for a wide range of good causes.

Would you like to know more about Soroptimism?

For more information log onto the web site at:

[www.soroptimist-gbi.co.uk](http://www.soroptimist-gbi.co.uk) and find out whether there is a club near you.

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