

8 Dec 2009

Royal British Legion

Peter Edwards from Royal British Legion (Stalybridge and Dukinfield Branch) attended the Business meeting accompanied by his daughter Poppy.

At the start of the meeting P.P. June handed over a cheque for £250 to Peter for the work of the Legion which was raised by June and Club member Susan knitting and selling special poppies.



6 Dec 2009

Regional Meeting

The quarterly Regional Meeting took place at Sports Village, Leigh, Lancs.

Guest speakers from Handicap International held the PAC meeting enthralled during the morning. The pm meeting was Chaired by Sriya Kulupana the new President of South Lancs Region 2009/10.

1 Dec 2009

Events in October and November

President Jill and Club members attended the Charter Lunch of SI Wilmslow held at The Deanwater Hotel



V.P. Janette, President Jill, P.P.Gina, Club Member Susan.
Seated P.P Linda P.P.June

Club members sold poppies in a local supermarket and P.P. June was knitting her special poppies to raise money for the Royal British Legion. Jill represented the Club at the War Memorial in Ashton on Remembrance Sunday, 8th November supported by P.E. Linda and P.P. Betty.

At the end of October the Club held a very successful fundraising event when Val Seed gave a floral demonstration with the theme *A Good Excuse for a Party*. All proceeds went to President's Charity.



Jill with Val Seed



A lavish display, one of many produced on the night

President Jill and President Elect Linda and Past Presidents Irene and June left for the Federation Annual Conference held in Cardiff.



SI Ashton delegates with Margaret Emsley P.P. of Ashton Club and on the Federation Management Board, at the Banquet which closed the Conference.

30 Sep 2009

Big Bra Appeal

President Jill has now launched the **BIG BRA APPEAL** to raise funds for the **YOUNG ONCOLOGY UNIT** at Christie Hospital in Manchester.

With the help of our partners, JD Williams and Company LTD of Manchester and the Reporter Group of newspapers(Tameside area)we are now collecting worn out bras for recycling and unworn ones for use in developing countries.

The Club is very grateful to [BCR Global Textiles](#) for making this appeal work so profitably.

Club members are working hard asking family and friends to clear out their lingerie of unwanted bras and to tell *their* friends to donate to us. Shona has designed an eyecatching poster and this can be seen all over the North West publicizing our Appeal which will run until March 2010.



PAC Chair Ann, President Jill and her daughter Kaye with Janet Parish from JD Williams holding up bags of donated bras.

24 Sep 2009

Lynn Dunning

It was with great sadness that the Club learned of the death of Lynn Dunning, Past International President. We send our sincere condolences to Lynn's family and friends and to her Club of SI Ramsbottom.

Lynn was tireless in her efforts for Soroptimism and was a wonderful President at all levels of the movement.

Clubs in the South Lancs. Region were very proud of *our girl*.

21 Sep 2009

Awards Presentation Lunch

The Guest Speaker at the South Lancs. Regional New Members and Awards Presentation Lunch was Sue Challoner, Assistant Programme Director for Economic and Social Development SIGBI.

The Lunch was held at the Wrightington Hotel in Lancashire and Soroptimists from the Region enjoyed a meal and friendship then listened intently to Sue's talk on the structure of UKPAC and the good and worthy projects undertaken by Clubs in the Region. Regional President Bernadette then asked Sue to assist with Presentations of Awards.

15 Sep 2009

Tameside Blind Society

President Jill welcomed Glenis Lee from the Tameside Blind Society to the meeting. A wealth of support is available for those with visual impairment and members were interested to find out more about aids to everyday living.

Present at this meeting were many guests who came to experience SI and to share the fun and friendship that Soroptimism can offer.

Membership Secretary Alicia brought along the display boards which provide a visual record of Club activities. Members and guests enjoyed their evening together looking at previous Projects and planning for the future.



Jill volunteered to test some of the items available.

2 Sep 2009

Support our Soldiers

Club members of Soroptimist International of Ashton under Lyne, along with their mothers, daughters and granddaughters filled 31 Comfort boxes for service personnel based in Afghanistan.

Karen Webster, founder of the Charity Support our Soldiers, (SOS) travelled from their Headquarters in Bingley, Yorks. to collect the boxes before forwarding them to Service Personnel who have requested a box.

Karen explained to the Club how the Charity evolved and how vital it to keep morale high. "Just the idea that a stranger has gone to all the trouble to choose a box full of interesting and welcome luxuries gives a Service woman or man such a boost".

President Jill Dewsnap thanked all members and their families who contributed to this Project and hoped the recipients would enjoy receiving their gifts.

She also thanked Debbie and staff at the *Shubar* in Ashton for supplying the empty boxes and to *Selections* of Denton who kindly supplied packets of condiments, sauce and individual tablets of soap to help fill the boxes with many tiny and useful surprises.

Details of Support our Soldiers are on www.supportoursoldiers.co.uk



20 Aug 2009

Bowling

The bowling team are having a good season and the photograph was taken at Cedar Park in Ashton.



8 Jul 2009

Business Meeting - July 2009

As Stanley House is closed in July the Business Meeting was held in the Community Room at Ashton Fire Service. The Service personnel made us very welcome and we enjoyed our visit to their place of work. The Club was very grateful to the Service for use of the room.



Our hosts for the evening hard at work



President Jill with Lorraine and Penelope

At the start of the meeting the Club met representatives of Young Oncology Unit at Christie Hospital, President Jill's Charity 2009/10 who gave a short DVD presentation of the work of the Y.O.U. bringing home to Club members how vital the funds raised are to these young people. Penelope and Lorraine showed work of the the Y.O.U. with a candidness and humour that energised us all into greater efforts for Jill's Charity.

6 Jul 2009

Cream Tea

Honorary Club Member Mildred and her husband Ossie kindly opened up their home on 4th July and held one of their famous Cream Teas to raise fund for President's Charity. Over £400 was raised and the Club thanked them for their kindness.

After a few hours sleep President Jill and Club members attended the Regional Meeting held on 5th July in Leigh, Lancs.

4 Jul 2009

Willow Wood Wander

President Jill and Club members took part in the Annual Willow Wood Wander.

This sponsored event takes place at midnight and covers 10k around the streets of Tameside. All proceeds raised by the *Women Only* walk will go towards the Willow Wood Hospice.

1 Jul 2009

Annual Friendship Lunch

President Jill and 13 Club members travelled across the Pennines to meet up with SI Huddersfield and their sister Clubs from Yorkshire for the Annual Friendship Lunch. The welcoming venue of the Old Golf House Hotel at Outlane was thronged with Soroptimists renewing old friendships and making new ones.

All proceeds from the raffle went to Project Sierra.



The photo shows President Jill (3rd from L.) with Club Presidents, & P. Elect. Pat Drake, Regional President of Yorkshire Region is 2nd from R.

66th Annual Charter Dinner

President Jill welcomed The Mayor and Mayoress of Tameside MBC Councillor John Sullivan and Mrs F. Sullivan to the Club Dinner held at Stanley House on Friday 26th June 2009. Other guests included the Regional President, Bernadette Platt, Club Presidents and guests from our Friendship Clubs.

Entertainment was provided by LA John and Toastmistress for the evening was IPP Dr Usha Deulkar.



Councillor John Sullivan Civic Mayor of Tameside MBC, President Jill and Mrs Francoise Sullivan.

19 May 2009

Speaker Meeting - May 2009

Anne MacDonald (Quadrennial Project Liaison Officer SIGBI)visited the Club and updated members on her recent study tour to Project Sierra. Also present was Bob Clowrey from the Tameside Reporter, who was visiting the Club to have an insight into how SI operates and to find out more about Project Sierra.

The Club enjoyed a meal together with their guests. Later in the evening the Presentation from Anne was very moving and enlightening and this was reflected in the Vote of Thanks which was given by Janet Patterson on behalf of members.



Bob Clowrey collecting some thoughts on Project Sierra.



Bob, Anne and President Jill after the Meeting.

Congratulations to:-

Dr Margaret Emsley who spoke on the subject of Women in Engineering at the Joint Regional Conference at Kendal.

10 May 2009

Our new President takes over

President Usha handed over the Chain of Office to Jill Dewsnap who is now the 66th President of our Club. The President Elect is Linda Fayers and Vice President is Janette Meadowcroft.

At the moving ceremony to close President Usha's year of office, candles were lit representing all aspects of Soroptimism. Usha is shown lighting the candle of Achievement watched by Membership Secretary Alicia.

The Outgoing President invested the new President with her Chain of Office and was presented with her Past President's Badge. Jill accepted the role as President and in her speech told the Club that her Charity will be the Young Oncology Unit at Christie Hospital. Y.O.U. specialises in the care and treatment of teenagers and young people who have cancer. Afterwards to Club socialised with a delicious supper and we look forward to the coming year.



The Executive Committee are shown with President Jill and IPP Usha.



7 Mar 2009

Pyramid of Shoes - International Women's Day

SI Ashton built a Pyramid of Shoes at Ashton under Lyne Market Ground starting at 9 am.

Each pair of shoes represented 2 people often women and children who have lost their lives or limbs as a result of the accidental encounter with landmines or cluster bombs left behind after conflict. The Club received a great deal of support from the people of Tameside and number of shoes donated rose steadily (as did the Pyramid!) throughout the day.

We were delighted that the MP for Ashton under Lyne David Heyes took time out of his busy schedule to support us and he gave over a bag of shoes donated by his constituency office; he stayed and chatted with Club members who were on duty at the stall.

SI Ashton also acknowledge the support given by the MP for Stalybridge and Hyde James Purnell and Andrew Gwynne MP from Denton and Reddish.

Old friends dropped by including Councillor Jackie Lane and she is shown on the photo next to David Heyes.



President Usha is surrounded by Club members including President Elect Jill.

Heartwarming incidents happened during the day.

One young woman who came to look at the well put together display organised by Membership Secretary Alicia; took off her boots, donated them and went home in some other shoes she had bought whilst shopping. Some people who stayed to talk, walked away clutching Red Cross and Land Mine Action literature thus learning more about the devastation caused by the effects of cluster bombs and landmines and the reasons for the Movement supporting International Women's Day.

The British Red Cross took away 650 pairs of shoes after the event for resale through their retail outlets and recycle any others and they were delighted with the day's efforts.

The Club is very grateful to the staff of Ashton Market ground for all their assistance, to everyone who took the trouble to search out shoes for the Pyramid (we could not have

done it without you!)

Thanks also go to everyone at Tameside Reporter for allowing a Borough wide collection to be held there and not least to all from the Club who supported this International Women's Day Event.

Prior to the event President Usha and Margaret Emsley were photographed with the Pyramid frame, used as a template on the day and other publicity included the link below to Tameside Radio.

[Listen here for a recording from Tameside Local Radio.](#)

Later that evening after the Event was over President Usha and other members attended the Charter Dinner of SI Manchester, our Mother Club, held at Old Trafford Cricket ground, Manchester.

24 Feb 2009

Executive Committee - February 2009

The Club Executive Committee met at the home of President Usha and before the meeting sorted some shoes ready for the building of the Shoe Pyramid on 7 March.

As it was Shrove Tuesday President Usha cooked pancakes for the group at the close of the evening. Yummy!!!!





IPP Gina and President Usha making pancakes for the members of the Executive Committee Shrove Tuesday 2009.

23 Feb 2009

Annual Dinner

President Usha and Club members attended the Annual Dinner of Rotary International of Ashton under Lyne held this year at Portland Basin Bistro.

16 Feb 2009

Speaker Meeting - February 2009

At a busy Speaker Meeting the Club welcomed Dr Athar Siddiqui and Dr Rubab Athar. They spoke very movingly about the Hareem Tehreen School they founded in Pakistan in memory of their late daughters. The Club were greatly interested in the work of the school and this was reflected as Alicia Harris gave the Vote of Thanks at the conclusion of the Meeting.

Prior to the talk and after an excellent meal at the start of the meeting President Usha inducted a new member into the Club and this brings our total to 41.



Dr Rubab Athar, President Usha, Dr Athar Siddiqui and Alicia Harris, Club Membership Secretary.



President Usha welcoming the new member. The Club member who introduced her looks on holding a candle.

11 Feb 2009

Chetham's School of Music

A group from the Club visited the world famous Chetham's School of Music in Manchester for a Heritage Evening. Organised by Social Secretary Jacque who writes:-

The group of 15 visited the 12th Century School of Music and enjoyed a concert given by year 11 students studying at the school and who played to perfection. This took place in the Medieval Baronial Hall which gave it a very atmospheric aura.

Then followed a fascinating tour of the buildings including the famous Library with its chained books and where Karl Marx once studied. The Occultist John Dee who was Queen Elizabeth the 1st's Mystical Astrologer also studied at the Library. After a delicious buffet supper Jacque was left wondering that if the food was anything to go by she would not mind being a student at "Chet's"

3 Feb 2009

Sharman Birtles - February 2009



Club members were delighted to hear that Sharman Birtles (see her other appointment in 2008 News) has been appointed Deputy Lieutenant of Greater Manchester.

A member with a wide variety of interests, not least a passion for soccer, Sharman is relishing the challenge of her new role which she takes up with immediate effect.

30 Jan 2009

FOMO Project - January 2009

The unloading of the container and its subsequent distribution took some months. However the Club was delighted to receive these photographs early in 2009

Mary tells us that the rest of the underwear was distributed to the other 12 centres and that the children were delighted.

Since the start of this Project undertaken by the Club the number of children helped by FOMO has risen to over 5,500 and the Charity is now active in 13 centres in Malawi.

SI Ashton gratefully acknowledge the use of the photos and more information about FOMO is on the links page.



This photo shows Mary Woodworth at Nansomba Centre with a group of boys receiving their pants.



A young boy checking out his new boxer shorts!