

31 December 2006

## New Year

President Ann, Club Officers and Members of SI Ashton under Lyne wish all Soroptimists everywhere a happy and successful year in 2007.

PAC Chair Yvonne organised a rota of Club members who assisted the Royal British Legion in selling Poppies at a local supermarket. The B.L. expressed their thanks for the help by the Club at this busy time of year.



Former President Betty and Hon. member Mildred at the Poppy stall in Morrisons Supermarket Dukinfield.

3 December 2006

## Soroptimist Sunday



President Ann welcomed the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress of Tameside MBC, Director of the PIN Project Alice Searle, SI Regional President Eileen Griffiths and the Club Presidents of Oldham, Huddersfield and from our Mother Club Manchester to St George's Church in Stalybridge. Members of Ashton Club joined with their Soroptimist Sisters supporting their Presidents and the Soroptimisters who also attended. The Rev. Ian Stubbs led the Service with President Elect Gina reading the Lesson.

Visiting Soroptimists shared friendship and song during the singing of the Soroptimist Symphony from SI Scarborough (Trinidad and Tobago). This hymn has been set to music by Dr Chris Anderson Musical Director at St George's.

After the Service the Ashton Soroptimists, led by PAC Chair Yvonne served a delicious "*Just Lunch*" of homemade soup and bread to remind ourselves that the meal may be all that some have to subsist on for a day or longer. Proceeds from the Lunch will go to the PIN Project.



Serving and sharing the *Just Lunch*



**1 December 2006**

## **World Aids Day**

Club members sold PINS at Manchester Cathedral during the Services on World Aids Day.

**12 November 2006**

## **Poppies**

SI Ashton under Lyne were pleased to assist both the British Legion in Stalybridge/Dukinfield and Ashton u Lyne to sell poppies in the Annual Appeal in the run up to Armistice Day. On Remembrance Sunday a wreath was laid on behalf of the Club at the War Memorial in Ashton by President Ann and Club members took part in the Service and Parade.

**26--29 October 2006**

## **Soroptimist Conference**

President Ann of Ashton u Lyne and Club members Margaret, Irene and Linda with former Club President June were welcomed to the Conference by an old friend, Shirley. Delegates really enjoyed taking part in the Pink Link over the Tyne on Friday 27th October when the Millenium Bridge was filled with over 1000 Soroptimists wearing pink to show support for the Breast Cancer Research Appeal.



IPP Linda President Ann in her pink wig, Fed. Director of Technical and Advisory and member of SI Ashton, Margaret and former Club President Irene.

During Conference the keynote speakers included Dame Tanni Grey-Thompson and Simon Weston and there were updates on Programme and on the current Quadrennial "Project Independence". It was also a time of reflection and music as the theme "Take your dreams and make them happen" was explored in many different ways.

It was also great to meet up with former Club President June Munro, now President at Easter Ross in Scotland, and her Club members who joined us for lunch, dinner and friendship.

**20 October 2006**

## **SI Bolton**

President Ann and her husband were warmly welcomed by President Maureen and members of SI Bolton to their Charter Dinner, held at the Holiday Inn Bolton.

The guest Speaker, Mrs Olive Newton made an amusing and entertaining speech enjoyed by all.

**17 October 2006**

## **Speaker Meeting**

Club members were entertained at the Speaker meeting by a talk given by Mr Michael Clarke on the subject of "The Real History of Chocolate." This very witty talk provided the perfect end to the evening of fun, food and friendship.

**14 October 2006**

## **Bulb Planting**

PAC Chair Yvonne organised a successful bulb planting at Gorse Hall in Stalybridge when Club members "dug in" to enrich the area at this historic site.

2--12 October 2006

## Bear Faced Travel

Siyabonga Pin-Bear was off again on his travels, this time to France. He and President Ann were warmly welcomed by the members of the Anglo/French class based near Duras, Lot en Garonne when they gave a talk on Soroptimism and followed this up by speaking about the President's Charity, The PIN Project.



The Anglo French Group.

President Ann then presented a gift on behalf of the Civic Mayor of Tameside, Councillor Margaret Sidebottom to the Mayor of Levignac de Guyenne, Jean-Paul Berry who then invited Ann and former President Alicia Harris to the Mairie in Levignac.



Alicia with Maire Berry and Ann. Enjoying the French sunshine is the Friendship Bear, Siyabonga.

Ann is grateful to Sara and Max Batchelor of Parc Saint Vincent at Levignac for arranging this visit.

1 October 2006

## SI Rochdale

SI Rochdale held a Lunch at the Broadfield Hotel, Rochdale and SI Ashton were represented by IPP Linda.

30 September 2006

## Friendship and Awards Lunch



Pres. South Lancs Region, Mrs Dot Mitchell, Siyabonga Pin-Bear and President Ann Winstanley.

The Regional President of Sth Lancs Region, Mrs Dot Mitchell welcomed representatives of 16 Clubs to the Friendship and Awards Lunch held at Childwall Golf Club. President Ann and IPP Linda enjoyed a relaxed buffet lunch with members from Clubs across the region. They were pleased to congratulate SI Bootle on their award winning project and SI Liverpool for the award for most recruited new members and also for winning the Bowls trophy. SI Ashton wished President Debbie and members of Bury Club a lovely evening at their forthcoming Charter Dinner and to President Dot. and her team a super eveing at the Harlequin Ball.

23 September 2006

## Busy Day

As part of the Harvest celebrations at St George's church in Stalybridge, SI Ashton provided tea, coffee and other Fair Trade products and raised over £60 for President Ann's Charity 2006/7, The Pin Project. Later that evening Ann accompanied by Club members Jill, Usha, Linda and Janet attended the 68th Charter Dinner of SI Stockport. The group were welcomed warmly by President Marilyn and other Club members and after a delicious meal were thrilled by the excellent dancing provided by the Bramhall School of Dance.

16 September 2006

## Programme Action Lunch

President Ann and Club members attended the 2nd Programme Action Lunch held in Southport, Merseyside as guests of SI Southport and SI Bootle.

It was lovely meeting with old friends and new and after a meal were inspired by the talks given by guest speaker Margaret Alderson and International President Lynn Dunning.

**12 September 2006**

## **Bursary Winner**

The Club was delighted to hear from Bursary Winner 2005/6 Hannah on her return from Sri Lanka. We look forward to welcoming her back to a future meeting to see all the photographs and to hear first hand of how the school children helped by the young students of Durham University are coping after the Tsunami.

President Ann's Friendship Bear Siyabonga is presently in Scotland as a guest of SI Easter Ross and President June. Ann hopes that he has been a model visitor.

**22 July 2006**

## **Garden Party**

A Garden Party was held in the afternoon at the home of one of our members and after an afternoon of silly games good food and chat the proceeds were given over to the PIN Project.

**18 July 2006**

## **Speaker Meeting**

On a lovely warm summer evening what better way to spend an evening than with friends. The Club met for the last time before the summer break and the Speaker Meeting was well attended. Club members enjoyed a meal and then welcomed back Alice Searle to give an update on the recent developments of the PIN Project. Alice brought along many new photographs and as ever there was an opportunity to buy PINS and other items of handmade ZULU jewellery. Alice spoke with her usual enthusiasm about the the Project and as ever was interesting and informative.



Alice Searle with Siyabonga Pin-Bear and Club officers, President Elect Gina and IPP Linda, modelling a Zulu necklace.

6 July 2006

## Bursary Winner

President Ann was delighted to hear from Hannah, our Bursary Grant winner 2006.

**Hannah writes,** *Thank you so much for your support of the Sri Lanka project. Myself and 14 other students fly to Sri Lanka tomorrow morning to begin our summer working with the pre school at Palana West and junior school in Moraketiara. The money raised by the project has paid for the rebuilding of the Palana West preschool which is now finished and which we will attend the official opening of on the 13th of July. We have also been able to replace two destroyed fishing boats for families in Moraketiara.*

*I shall keep in touch with regular updates over the coming weeks but once again thank you so much for your support*

5 July 2006

## Annual Seniors Lunch

President Ann, IPP Linda and Friendship Link officer Rachel travelled across the county border to join with President Rena and Club members of SI Huddersfield for their Annual Seniors Lunch. This was held at The Fleece Inn, Holme Village and was attended by Regional President (Yorkshire Region) and members from Clubs on both sides of the Pennines. Also present was Siyabonga Pin-Bear making his first visit across the Pennines. President Rena duly stamped his passport!

30 June 2006

## 63rd Annual Dinner

On behalf of the Club, President Ann welcomed The Civic Mayor of Tameside, Councillor Margaret Sidebottom escorted by her daughter, Regional President Dot Mitchell, and Presidents of Rotary and Inner Wheel to the 63rd Annual Dinner celebrating the Chartering of SI Ashton under Lyne in 1943.

10 Club Presidents and Soroptimists from across the Region also attended and made the occasion very special for Ann and her family. From the Friendship Link Club of Easter Ross in Scotland the Club members were delighted that President June, a former President of Ashton Club, could attend. After a delicious meal guests were entertained by Mr Dudley Doolittle who gave a sparkling performance making everyone laugh with his unique view of life.





President Ann, Mrs Peggy Mansergh (Inner Wheel) and the Civic Mayor of Tameside, Councillor Margaret Sidebottom.



Regional President (South Lancs.) Dot Mitchell, Rotary President Joyce Howarth, President Ann, Civic Mayor of Tameside Councillor Margaret Sidebottom.

23 May 2006

## Speaker Meeting

President Ann welcomed Club members and guests to the 1st Speaker Meeting since she became President. Guests and members were entertained by Mr and Mrs Lynch AKA "The Great Stomboli and Sylvia" who presented *The Crown Jewels Experience*. This was a lively and very interesting talk with a large display of replicated Crowns, Sceptres, Orbs and other regalia, the originals of which are held at the Tower of London.



President Ann with part of the display of "Crown Jewels" brought for the talk.

13 May 2006

## Joint Regional Conference

Former President Alicia and President Ann were day delegates at the Conference co-directed by Regional Presidents Susan Biggs and Dorothy Mitchell

This was held at the Marriott Hotel, Liverpool South.

The Saturday morning Programme, the theme of which was "Slavery Past, Present and Future was moving, sad but ultimately hopeful as the speakers, Museum Director David Fleming, Tembe Aziz "Life of a Sudanese Slave" and Louise Ellman MP addressed these important issues from their own personal perspectives.

The Questions and Answer session following was very lively and attempts were made to explain to the Conference, given the short time available, the Governmental stand on issues such as People Trafficking and the exploitation of women that can occur in this country.

On a lighter note, after a lunch break when the Delegates mingled and friendships were renewed or made, the Women, Slaves to Fashion talk by June Corner and her friend had us all laughing as we travelled through the history of ladies' undergarments from Victorian times to the present day!

3 May 2006

## SI Wigan

President Ann and her husband attended the 65th Anniversary Dinner of SI Wigan held at Haigh Hall. They were warmly welcomed by the President and enjoyed an evening of fun and friendship.

25 April 2006

## 63rd YEAR OF SI ASHTON UNDER LYNE

At the change of Insignia Ceremony held during the A.G.M. Ann Winstanley became the new President of SI Ashton under Lyne.

Ann is the 63rd President of Soroptimist International of Ashton under Lyne.

Born in Wigan, Ann has lived in the Tameside area since 1971. She spent all her working life in some form of education before taking early retirement in 2001. She became a Soroptimist in 2000 and is looking forward to her year as President.

Married to David for forty years she has two children and three grandchildren.

Ann is a member of St George's CE Church in Stalybridge and is a churchwarden there.

Education from Early Years to the 3rd Age prompted the choice of Ann's chosen Charity for her Presidential year.

The PIN (People in Need) Project helps orphaned children in Kwa Zulu Natal SA and money raised throughout her year will enable young people to receive bursaries for their further education.

Ann's interests include travel, especially in France. She also enjoys reading, especially murder mysteries; her favourite authors include Reginald Hill and PD James. When time permits she is often found in the entirely partisan support of Wigan Warriors RLFC.



President Elect Gina, President Ann, I.P.P. Linda and Vice President Usha.

**23 April 2006**

## **SI Southport**

President Linda and Club members attended the Lunch given by SI Southport. On the same day President Elect Ann and her husband were guests of SI Warrington at their Change of Insignia and Charter Lunch.

**22 April 2006**

## **SI Oldham**

President Linda and members of SI Ashton enjoyed warm hospitality as guests of SI Oldham at their Charter Dinner.

**4 April 2006**

## **SI Widnes**

President Linda, President Elect Ann and Vice President Gina travelled to Widnes as guests of SI Widnes to celebrate the Presidential year of President Wendy. An evening of fun, friendship, music and laughter was enjoyed by all who attended. After a lavish supper we made our way back across the region. We offer our thanks to the members of the Widnes Club for their hospitality.

### **From the Presidential Year of Gina Ullman, 2007/8**

SI Ashton decided to collect 4,000 pairs of underwear for boys and girls helped by FOMO (Friends of Mulanje Orphans Charity). This will enable the children and young people in Malawi helped by the Project to attend school and go about their daily lives with a degree of dignity and hygiene. The Club is grateful for all the help in this Project given by the Tameside Reporter and local churches throughout the area especially St George Stalybridge.

After a kind anonymous donation of over 1,000 pairs of pants and with the help of St George's Church the total of pants collected during August was well over 2,000 pairs.

At the meeting of the Programme Action Committee in September the PAC began to sort the underwear into size categories ready for shipping. Other donations included a large sack of assorted pants from "Time of your Life Clubs in Mossley and Ashton."

The total for November has been swollen by kind donations from the good people of Tameside via the Reporter Office and at Tameside hospital. The Club is grateful to Hurst Methodist Church for the recent contribution of over 300 pairs. SI Wilmslow have given a generous donation and Ashton is very grateful for their help and to all individual Soroptimists who have bought and donated so many lovely items. Tameside Local Radio has also featured the Appeal and have a collection box at their studio. An interview is featured on the site see the link below.

An interim delivery has gone in the container which began its journey.

The Programme Action Committee preparing to sort the pants, prior to shipping.

[Listen to the interview with Tameside Local Radio.](#)

**November 2007**

## **Preston, Lancashire U.K.**



The consignment of underwear being loaded onto the container en route to Malawi.

February 2008 The container arrives in Mulange, Malawi.

*The following photographs are courtesy of FOMO.*



Unloading begins.



Getting there! Not much more to unload.



Lovely shot of the FOMO Driving School with stunning scenery behind.



Soroptimists are back in school where they are affectionately known as The Library Ladies!



The delightful window adorns the library and was painted by the whole school in 2005.

The children at school were pleased to receive 2 lovely books kindly sent by SI Tynemouth, Whitley Bay and District via our Friendship Officer Rachel. Our Sister Soroptimists in this Club also have a Library Project and we wish them well.

SI Ashton also continued its involvement at the Women's Project, by providing toilet bags for clients and also serving as committee members and as trustees to the Project.

**3 April 2006**

## **Distribution of Charities Evening**

President Linda was pleased to welcome Hannah Lindley who was the Bursary winner 2005/6



and Tony Eckersall who is the North of England fundraising manager for DebRA President Linda's nominated Charity.



**2 March 2006**

## **SI Manchester**

SI Manchester, the 2nd oldest Club in the UK, a Daughter Club of London District, who received their Charter in 1926, celebrated 80 years of Soroptimism in Manchester and 15 members from Daughter Club, SI Ashton joined their "Mother" for Dinner.

**16 February 2006**

## **SI Leigh and District**

President Linda and President Elect Ann celebrated with SI Leigh and District as they held their 59th Annual Charter Dinner. On the same evening Club members of SI Ashton were welcomed by the Civic Mayor of Tameside Councillor Jacqueline Lane at the Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall, Ashton, when the Mayor gave our newer members an insight into the history of the town followed by refreshments.

**24 January 2006**

## **Anniversaries**

SI Ashton sent greetings to SI Scarborough, Trinidad and Tobago as they celebrated their 10th Anniversary.



PAC Chair Yvonne with President Elect Ann's Friendship Bear, Siyabonga. They both enjoyed the celebrations.



9 January 2006

## Business Meeting

President Linda welcomed everyone to the first Business Meeting of 2006 and she announced that the first Speaker Meeting of the New Year to be held on the 16 January will feature a talk on Pilates.

## News Archive 2005

19 December 2005

## Christmas Meal

To celebrate the Festive Season the Club joined with other celebrating groups for a traditional Christmas meal at Stanley House. Club members enjoyed an evening of fun and friendship, laughter and dancing.

We are grateful to Andrea and her staff at the venue for attentive service throughout the year. President Linda wishes Soroptimists everywhere a pleasant, safe and very happy Christmas and the hope that each Club will have a successful year in 2006.

11 December 2005

## Soroptimist Sunday

To celebrate Soroptimist Sunday, Club members attended Morning Service at the Parish Church of Ashton under Lyne and then joined with Soroptimisters for lunch at a nearby hotel.

3 December 2005

## WORLD AIDS DAY 2005



Arlies School Choir singing the Anthem, *Nkosi Sikelel iAfrika* during the Service.

At Manchester Cathedral at 3-30, in the presence of the Lord Mayor of Manchester and Mayors and Mayoress' from 5 Borough towns, SI Ashton, George House Trust and the choir of Arlies School

Stalybridge joined with the Cathedral Choir for a Service of Choral Evensong. The main aim of the Service was to raise awareness and offer support to the PIN Project, a charity helping those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. The Project is based in Kwa Zulu Natal, South Africa and has a core group of supporters in the U.K.

The Service was led by Acting Dean, Canon Paul Denby and amongst those present was Soroptimist President Lynn Dunning who, with I.P.P. Alicia Harris from Ashton Club (deputising for President Linda) read the Lessons. A stirring Address was given by Terry Wynn MEP and the talented children from Arlies School focussed our minds on the work in Africa by their moving rendition of *Nkosi Sikelel iAfrika*. Later, as Prayers were read by local representatives, a group of children led by Samuel, lit candles which were then placed on the Altar symbolising lives affected or names recalled.

### **Alice Searle, Liaison of the PIN Project gave us "Words of Hope"**



Then as the Cathedral was flooded by light from our individual candles the Service concluded with a rousing hymn.

On a damp Manchester day it was good to see so many at the Service especially those who had travelled some distance to be with us These included our Regional President Dot. and IPP Pat, along with other Club Presidents and Regional members.

SI Ashton is very grateful to all the staff at Manchester Cathedral, the Organist and the Choir Master for allowing the Service to take place and to everyone involved in preparation and planning.

More information about the PIN Project can be found on the "links" page

**19 November 2005**

## **Bulb Planting**

The bulb planting planned for today has had to be postponed until warmer weather. However the members who braved the cold at Gorse Hall in Stalybridge were later rewarded by warming, homemade soup and delicious cake at the home of Vice President Gina. The bulbs, kindly donated to the Club by Stalybridge District Assembly, are back in storage awaiting planting at the next available opportunity.



Pres. Linda and hardy Club members at Gorse Hall site in Stalybridge Tameside.

**15 November 2005**

## **Fashion Show**

The local fashion chain Fizz presented a fashion show of their winter collection in the ballroom at the Club venue Stanley House. The show was held to benefit President Linda's Charity DebRA which helps children with Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB).

Club members and their guests were captivated by the quick changes of outfits the models expertly paraded down the catwalk. We then enjoyed browsing through the rails to choose some items for the colder months. The Club is grateful to Fizz, and also to the staff at Stanley House for their hard work during the Show. Our thanks go also to the Tameside branch of GMB trade union, whose generosity enabled us to give a very good raffle prize which helped to swell the proceeds, all of which will go to DebRA.

**13 November 2005**

## **Wreath of Poppies**

President Linda, on behalf of the Club, laid a Wreath of Poppies at the War Memorial following a Service of Remembrance at the 13c Parish Church of St. Michael in Ashton under Lyne.

**7 November 2005**

## **Barbara Thompson**

At the Business Meeting President Linda was delighted to offer congratulations on behalf of the Club to Mrs Barbara Thompson JP who was recently honoured for her services to Tameside

Hospital League of Friends. Barbara, who is now President of the League of Friends has been a volunteer for 27 years. She was presented with a Medal in the category of "Commitment" by the Lord Lieutenant of Manchester at a recent ceremony held at Manchester Town Hall.

**4 - 6 November 2005**

## **Poppies**

As part of our Programme Action the Club staffed a stall on behalf of The Royal British Legion, to support the annual Poppy Appeal. The picture shows President Linda with Club members during the first weekend of the Appeal for 2006. The Royal British Legion supports Servicemen and Servicewomen from all walks of life who have need of help from the Legion. The fund is mainly financed from the annual Poppy Appeal. The British Legion and SI Ashton are very grateful to the staff at Morrisons store in Dukinfield who again allowed the collection to take place and made everyone most welcome. Thanks are also extended to PAC Chair Yvonne for drawing up the rota and organising this worthwhile event.



Former Pres. Betty, Former Pres. June, President Linda Fayers and President Elect Ann

**27-30 October 2005**

## **Federation Conference**

Delegates from the Ashton Club travelled to Nottingham for the Federation Conference held at the Royal Centre. In the company of International President Lynn Dunning, President Janet Garnons Williams welcomed delegates from all over the Federation who met to debate, present awards for Programme Action and Best Practice. Our new Quadrennial Project was chosen and will be ratified by the F.E.C. and announced formally within the next few months.

We listened to the superb girl's choir Cantamus and were inspired by the keynote speakers Juliet Coleman (UNIFEM) and George Alagiah (Writer and broadcaster) After the Change of Insignia and the close of Conference we all partied to Alpha Connection and then left to go our separate ways. Next years Conference is to be held at the Sage Centre, Gateshead.

9 October 2005

## Margaret Rogerson

President Linda Fayers was delighted to greet the Worshipful, The Civic Mayor of Tameside, Councillor Jackie Lane and Regional President Pat Woodward. Linda also welcomed Club members and members of our Mother Club, SI Manchester and sister Clubs from our Region to honour Margaret Rogerson, Honorary Member of SI Ashton, as she celebrated 50 years as a Soroptimist. The Club held an Afternoon Tea in the pleasant surroundings of the Broadoak Hotel Ashton under Lyne and presented Margaret with many gifts to mark this special occasion.



The Civic Mayor of Tameside Councillor Jackie Lane, Margaret Rogerson, Regional President Pat Woodward and SI Ashton President Linda Fayers. Margaret is holding a letter of greetings from Buckingham Palace.

11 September 2005

## Visions of Peace



The Club presented Gift tokens to the winners of "Visions of Peace" competition held at Waterloo School. Entries were then displayed in the foyer at the main library of Ashton under Lyne. The paintings were collated and presented by Club members Irene and Sue and the exhibition attracted a great deal of interest.

6 July 2005

## SI Huddersfield

President Linda and 5 members of the Club were pleased to attend the Lunch given by SI Huddersfield. We travelled across the short scenic route to The Fleece Hotel in Holme Village, Holmfirth for a warm Yorkshire welcome and then enjoyed the hospitality of President Evelyn and Club members of SI Huddersfield.

Along with members from other Clubs on both sides of "The Border" we Red Roses mingled with the White enjoying a buffet prepared and served by Shirley Amesbury and her staff. It was our first link-up with SI Huddersfield and we thank them for their kind invitation and hope to join with them again very soon.

Thanks go especially to Grace for all her hard work in organising this event.

25 June 2005

## Summer Concert

President Linda, Club members and Soroptimists attended the Summer Concert at Uppermill Civic Hall when the Saddleworth Sing for Pleasure Choir (Conductor Chris Johnson and Accompanist Gordon Jackson) and the Oldham Music Centre Youth Brass Band (Conductor Martyn Evans) entertained us so well. The choir were in fine voice and sang a well chosen programme allowing the full range of talent contained within this group who indeed, sing for pleasure, to shine through.

At a time when so many younger people appear to be disaffected and bored with life, the level of commitment shown by this young band and their conductor gave us concertgoers an uplifting evening. We were taken through "Oregon", thrilled by the "Two Imps" and all joined in the rousing Finale when choir, band and audience joined together to sing a medley of popular songs. President Linda thanked everyone for their attendance and all proceeds from this event will go to her chosen charity DebRA.

24 June 2005

## Annual Dinner

SI Ashton celebrated 62 years of Soroptimism in the Borough when President Linda Fayers welcomed guests to the Annual Dinner held this year at Stanley House Masonic Hall, Audenshaw, Tameside. The Club was honoured by the presence of The Civic Mayor of Tameside, Councillor Jacqueline Lane and her Consort Mr Dawson Lane. Also present were the Presidents of Rotary and Inner Wheel and from the Soroptimist world, Regional President Pat. Woodward and her husband John and Club Presidents from around the Region. After an excellent meal entertainment was provided by Sara Parry and Gavin Meredith who presented a selection of popular songs in a relaxed cabaret style. The toastmistress was IPP Alicia Harris and the Vote of Thanks was given by Vice President, Gina Ullman.



The picture shows President Linda extreme R. and then R-L President of Rotary Mr R. Fletcher, President of Inner Wheel Mrs Fletcher, SI Regional President Pat Woodward, Civic Mayor of Tameside, Councillor Jackie Lane and Mr Dawson Lane.

## **SI Ashton congratulates Kaye Dewsnap**

Kaye won the prestigious Apprentice of the Year Personal Achievement Award presented at the Hilton Hotel London Friday, 17 June. An apprentice car mechanic, Kaye is battling a rare cancer. However she is dedicated to her chosen career and one day hopes to own her own garage. Kaye was our Bursary Grant winner 2004/5.



Kaye proudly holding her Award.

The Club has enjoyed two very interesting talks. The first, to set off President Linda's year was on the work of her chosen Charity DebRA.

The second was given by Peter from Oldham Mountain Rescue.

Thursday 28 May----Sunday 1May 2005

## FRIENDSHIP LINK VISIT TO SI EASTER ROSS TO CELEBRATE THEIR 30th YEAR OF CHARTER

**President Linda writes**

**THURSDAY.** We, Pres. Linda, Sybil and Janet travelled by train to Inverness. Although the weather was not good; raining and cold, we enjoyed the journey, particularly from Edinburgh to Inverness when we enjoyed a typical Soroptimist Picnic Lunch!

June Munro and her husband Robbie met us at Inverness and drove us to their home in Ardross via the scenic route approx. 20 miles from Inverness.



Linda Janet and Sybil with June hiding behind!

After a welcome "cuppa" and a look around their "estate" June transported us to Invergordon to the "Boarding House" where we were staying. This was a beautiful dormer bungalow, "Craigard", and the owners Kath and Angus Ross greeted us warmly. At 7-30 we were collected by Robbie and returned to their home for an evening meal.

As you would expect a wonderful evening was had by all (even Jimmy Shand sounded good!) and once we returned to Craigard we all slept exceedingly well.

**Friday** After a hearty Scottish breakfast June took us to meet members of SI Easter Ross and we joined President Betty and Club members for coffee and plenty of chat.

We then had a full day of touring around part of the beautiful countryside (even up to the best place on earth-Lairg). Although thwarted in our tour of the Glenmorangie Whisky Distillery we enjoyed the shop visit.

The weather in the early morning had been cold and rainy but as the day progressed it became sunny and warm.

IPP Alicia and Soroptimister Graham arrived at Craigard later in the afternoon. We all descended on June and Robbie for our evening meal. Once again we had a thoroughly good time especially when Linda and Alicia decided to entertain us with their version of dancing to - yes you've guessed it - Jimmy Shand!

**Saturday** We drove to the Lovat Hotel Beauley for the 30th Anniversary Lunch. This took approx. 45 mins but the weather and scenery made it a pleasant journey. The lunch was excellent and was attended by many guests who had driven at least 2 hours, eg SI Perth and SI Dundee. The main



speaker was Winnie Ewing the former MP and she amused us with tales from her time as a Member of Parliament. Margaret Sutherland, who Chartered SI Easter Ross was made an Honorary Member. SI Oslo who also have a Friendship Link with Easter Ross presented President Betty with a beautiful book about Norway. On behalf of SI Ashton President Linda explained that a donkey had been bought on behalf of Easter Ross and that it would help a family in Somalia. A name would be chosen for the donkey by SI Easter Ross and "Hamish" was a name mentioned during the lunch! Later that evening all the Friendship Linked Clubs met at the home of President Betty and enjoyed a wonderful evening of friendship, finishing with a delightful supper. Sadly we had to take our leave but promised to return to see our friends in Easter Ross very soon.



Pres. Linda and Pres. Betty.

**Sunday** After a substantial breakfast and a final farewell to June and Robbie, Soroptimister Graham drove us back to Manchester and he is to be congratulated for spending a straight 7 hours with 4 Soroptimists!!!

PS Thank you, Easter Ross for your wonderful friendship and for ensuring that the weather stayed fine, sunny and warm until we left you in a grey mist.

**18 April 2005**



## Annual General Meeting

This photograph shows President Linda lighting the candle of Soroptimism. This took place at the Change of Insignia Ceremony at our AGM ON 18 April 2005. Watching is former President Irene Melvin.

## President Alicia Harris 2004 - 2005

President's Charity: Tameside Hospital League of Friends

Pivotal in organising my year was an overwhelming desire to raise awareness of Soroptimism. If we are able to raise funds along the way that is a true bonus. How do you raise awareness? We had a recruitment evening and had publicity in the local Press.

So after a considerable amount of thought I suggested arranging a couple of Events which would include the wider Community and thus the Golf day and the Indian Evening were conceived. These proved to be very successful events and created a lot of interest and are mentioned below in Diary order.

**18 February 2005**

### Indian Evening

Members of SI Ashton-under-Lyne, Tameside Hospital League of Friends and Work Colleagues of myself, saw the end result of months of planning with a truly wonderful evening. Over 200 guests attended the Event where we were able to wear Saris, have henna tattoos, and enjoy a fun night. This was a very successful evening where we promoted Soroptimism and also funds were raised for the President's Charity.

**January 2005**

### President's Report

With my husband Graham, I visited The Gambia and was very happy to meet with members from SI Banjul. I took the best wishes of our Club here in the North West of England we look forward very much to hearing from our Sisters in The Gambia. A donation to sponsor a student was made.



President Patience, myself, Jane (IPP) and Pamela.

### Programme Action

We continue to support the School Libraries in Ashton-under-Lyne and Dukinfield and have again handed over Teddies to the Stockport Club collecting them for Teddies for Tragedies. We supported the Sudan Appeal early in the year. We continue to support the Women's Refuge, and The Shoe

Box appeal. We are donating to the Children in Need India appeal "CINI" - "adopt a mother and save a child" where we will commit to two years sponsorship. We are also negotiating with SI Huddersfield regarding sponsorship of a child in Uganda. World Aids Awareness day in December was remembered in my local Church and V P Ann delivered a very moving tribute to the South Africa region which is supported by our PIN Project work.

**The PIN project.** Although our bid for the Quadrennial was unsuccessful, the People in Need Project is very dear to our hearts and we are actively supporting Ann Winstanley our Programme Action Chair in her efforts. Ann has arranged for one of the Siyabonga PIN bears to be displayed at Portland Basin, Ashton-u-Lyne where a Super display of Teddies is being held.



The PIN Project is one of our Charities to be supported in my Year.

A Recipe book was compiled by members and friends and has been sold throughout the year.

## News Archive 2004

30 October--13 November 2004

### Poppies

SI Ashton were delighted to link with Stalybridge and Dukinfield Branch of the British Legion to sell Poppies around the Borough. The manager and staff of Morrisons in Dukinfield made us especially welcome.

Visit to Recycling Facility.

Club members enjoyed an instructive visit to Tameside Recycling Facility in Droylsden. After a talk given by recycling officers, Robin, Lauren and Christina when we learned more about national targets for waste minimisation and related matters, the group toured the site and saw the Borough's collected glass being turned into "sand" fine enough to use in a number of ways such as in the building trade. Innovative uses for recycled plastic film include parkland seating and planters and

we were shown examples of items now in use throughout the Borough. These items are made from material that would have been previously left to rot in landfill sites.



### **"Planting for Posterity Revisited"**

SI Ashton will once again meet up with Countryside Ranger John Courtman on 5 March 2005 and for our Saturday of Service we will be planting saplings at Knott Hill, Ashton under Lyne. The trees, mostly Rowans aka Mountain Ash were given by Tameside MBC as part of National Tree week 2004.



The photo shows the group before the planting.

28--31 October 2004

## **FEDERATION CONFERENCE**

Attending my first Conference in Bournemouth was very special. I was well supported by President Elect Linda, Vice President Ann, Rachel and Margaret Emsley (who spoke on a Motion proposed by SI Ashton) It was a special pleasure to meet with delegates from Tynemouth and Whitley Bay and District and we hope to link up with them in the future. At the Civic Reception kindly given by the Council and hosted by The Worshipful Mayor of Bournemouth and District, we discovered a link with our home town when, in conversation with "Mr Mayor", Councillor Emily Morrell-Cross, that she was born and brought up in Ashton-under-Lyne!

## **Charity Golf Day**

The day started bright and sunny at Ashton u Lyne Golf Club and that set the tone for the rest of the day. All the participants enjoyed the day and the Club was delighted that Emma Bird representing the main Sponsors, PREMIER Automotive spent the whole day at the event. The event went to plan and although we had only twelve teams participating, a further 70 Soroptimists and guests dined in the evening and enjoyed a superb meal, prepared and served by Nigel and his staff. This event,(with no Soroptimist teams taking part),further raised awareness and funds to benefit the Presidents Charity, it was a major undertaking and the Club acknowledges the specialist help given by our only golfer, Maureen, who arrived to help out, straight from the airport, en route from Florida, having had no sleep for 28 hours! SI Ashton does not function in isolation, and it was a great pleasure to welcome the guests of Club members and Soroptimists who attended for the evening dinner.

## **Speaker Meetings**

We had several interesting Speakers commencing with Miniatures and Collectables in May 2004 extending to Moving a Museum in March 2005. Other topics included Acupuncture, members enjoyed a very informative talk by the Chief Executive of Tameside Hospital Trust, Mrs Christine Green.on "Todays Health Service". A Talk given in October following Trafalgar Day was very informed on Emma, Lady Hamilton, this was followed by a super Talking Head performance by Carla Stokes a work colleague of myself. Quality and Risk Management was delivered in February and my final Speaker meeting - Moving a Museum is in March.We continue to maintain our Links with Ashton-under-Lyne Rotary Club, attending their Christmas Dinner, Joint charter Dinner with Inner Wheel, and their Centennial Service at Albion Church. We have been supported in our Fund raising events by their members.

## **The 61st Annual Dinner**

This was held at Ashton Golf Club when I welcomed The Civic Mayor of Tameside and the Mayoress, Councillors Bill and Pauline Harrison, the Presidents of Rotary and Inner Wheel of Ashton and my own family and special friends. Distinguished guests from the Soroptimist world were led by Regional President Linda Redhead and IPP Carol Holmes. Also present were many Presidents and Club members from our sister Clubs throughout the North West and Friendship Link Clubs, SI Easter Ross, Tamworth and Windermere. Reverend Canon Paul Denby responded wittily to the Toast to the Guests and lively and vibrant entertainment from Friezland Brass had the whole room rocking.



Presidents from the Region.

## Friendship Links

We visited Tamworth in June for their annual dinner and maintained our Link by meeting up with Tamworth for the Sports Relief Run a Mile ♦ this was carried out in very civilised fashion in Tissington Village where we met up with the Tamworth, Club, we enjoyed a lunch and our walk round Tissington. Throughout the year accompanied by members and Soroptimisters we have supported local Club dinners. In December we honoured our Club members who have served 20 years plus when a spray of orchids was presented to each member. Our longest serving member Margaret Rogerson having served 49 years to date!

Bowling still plays an important part of our Calendar and we will be meeting soon to prepare for the 2005 Season.

**3 June 2004**

## Missing Miles

Missing Miles Walk 2004. SI Ashton were pleased to welcome core walker, Derek Burns as he passed through Portland Basin en route to London. A donation to this will be made at the Distribution of Charities in April 2005.



# SI ASHTON CONGRATULATES SOCIAL SECRETARY JUNE

With almost no preparation June ran the 10K Manchester Run on 23rd May 2004 and raised money for Cancer Research.



During the year we have had lots of challenges and fun. We took part in the "Ruby Do" event arranged by our Mother Club Manchester when members serving 40 years were honoured. Two of our three members Joyce Greenwood and Mildred Smith were able to attend and were presented with gifts. Ashton Jazz performed at the party - I think we had as much fun at the rehearsals as we did on the evening.

Our President Elect Linda takes over in April and will be the 62nd President of Ashton-under-Lyne - so watch this space....!

**April 2004**

## **President's Report**

**A report from Janet Taylor President in Diamond year 2003/4.**

*It seems unbelievable that twelve months have passed since I was installed as President and we have celebrated our Diamond Year with an amazing variety of events both Socially and Programme Action and here is a brief outline of my year.*

*Events I was proud to represent our Club at included Dinners and lunches at SI Clubs Salford, Bolton, Rochdale Bury Wilmslow, Manchester, Oldham and Warrington.*

*It was a great pleasure to attend Regional meetings throughout the year and to represent the Club at the Conference in Belfast in October 2003.*



President Janet and delegates socialising after the Conference.



Programme Action around the Borough included the lovely floral carpet in Stamford Park and our ongoing work as librarians in two primary schools. In the run up to Christmas we awarded certificates and gift vouchers to 4 young carers for overcoming personal difficulties in caring for relatives and continuing in full time education despite many domestic pressures.





President Janet with the young carers and their Social Worker. Also present was the representative from Pendlebury Children's Hospital Mrs Pat Whiteside (r. hand side, nearest the camera).

Also as a group that Christmas we sang Christmas Carols at a home for Retired Persons. The Presidents Charity raised over £2,000 for Pendlebury Children's Hospital and the Club worked really hard in fundraising to benefit other Charities which this year included the Bam earthquake appeal.

Locally we are represented on many local committees and the name of Soroptimist International is now well known in our locality.

My best wishes go to our new President Alicia and to Pres. Elect Linda as they take up office for the next year.

I extend a warm thank you to all Club members for their help and support during the Diamond Year and to wish the Club my warmest wishes for the future.

**21 February 2004.**

## **1940s Dance**

SI Ashton were honoured by the presence of the Civic mayor of Tameside Councillor Margaret Downs and her Consort Walter at the Diamond Year "1940s" Dance held at the George Lawton Hall Mossley.

President Janet also welcomed Club members (suitably garbed in fashions of the era) and the Dance was supported by guests from other organisations within Tameside including Rotary and Inner Wheel.

Audrey from SI Bootle led our community singing and music from Adrian and the Dectette provided the evocative music from the time. All proceeds will go to Pendlebury Children's Hospital.



President Janet & her guest Barbara seated with Tameside's Mayor, Coun. Margaret Downs and her Consort Mr. Walter Downs

## News Archive 2003

1 November 2003

### Race Night

A successful event was held at the School House Restaurant when a Race Night was held to raise funds towards the President's Charity.

President Janet was pleased to welcome club members and their guests to a very lively evening. "Owners" mingled with "Sponsors" in the "Paddock", and enjoyed a traditional Lancashire Hot Pot supper whilst cheering on the "horses".

7 September 2003

### Operation Christmas Child

SI Ashton welcomed two local representatives of Operation Christmas Child AKA The Shoebox Appeal to the 1st Speaker Meeting after the summer break.

After an inspiring talk the Club members watched a short, moving video of the work of the Charity before handing over much needed items such as small toys, toothbrushes, warm hats and gloves. These items will be used to fill shoeboxes to be sent to hurting children in time for Christmas 2003.

27 June 2003

## Stamford Park

As part of our Diamond Year President Janet was pleased to visit Stamford Park in Ashton to officially see the Flower Carpet designed by Mark Porter.

Our thanks go to Mark and his staff especially to Bernard Gore who did the bulk of the work involved in placing the plants into the design . Also the Club is grateful to Stalybridge Town Manager's office and the District Assembly for their help in this project.

The Carpet, featuring the name of our Club, the dates and showing a representative of the SI logo is situated outside the newly renovated Conservatory and will be in place for the rest of the summer.

24 June 2003

## SI Ashton celebrates in style - 60 GLORIOUS YEARS

With these words President Janet Taylor welcomed the guests at the 60th Charter Dinner held at Ashton Town Hall.



*Photo by kind permission of Mr F.W. Farrer.*

L--R President Janet with Councillor Margaret Downs, Civic Mayor of Tameside MBC.

From the Soroptimist family we welcomed President of SIGBI, Dr Joan Smyth & Regional President Carol Holmes.

Representing other Clubs were the Presidents of Rotary and Inner Wheel.

Also present were members of our Mother Club SI Manchester and Presidents and members of Regional Clubs.



*Photo by kind permission of Mr F.W. Farrer*

We were pleased so many guests connected with our work as Soroptimists, including those from our present President's Charity, Manchester Childrens Hospital Trust, were able to attend.

It was a particular joy as members of SI Ashton we welcomed our own guests and during the evening to forge and renew friendships within the Soroptimist family.

"Friendship link" members had travelled from SI Easter Ross in Scotland to be with us and we had greetings from two American Clubs. During the meal lively conversation flowed and greetings were exchanged.

The evening was enhanced by a sherry reception hosted by the Mayor, and our thanks are extended to the Civic Mayor of Tameside, Councillor Margaret Downs, for this honour for the Club.

As a souvenir of our special year we gave each of our lady guests a small gift and the gentlemen received a button- hole flower in our club colour.

We had a carefully chosen menu, prepared and served by very attentive staff. Light entertainment throughout the meal was provided by pianist David Dossett. After the interval it was then President Janet's pleasant task to confer Honorary Membership on a long serving member, Mildred Smith, for her hard work and loyal service to the Club. Mildred then cut the beautiful Diamond shaped cake made for the occasion by our Treasurer Maureen.

However, all the stops came out when our old friends " Cheshire Arts Theatre" and Choir, under their dynamic leader Colin Ward hit the stage and rounded off the evening with songs and dance from each of the decades that our club has been in existence.

The club is especially grateful to Dinner Secretary Linda, who held everything together, wrote and rewrote endless lists, guided the Diamond Committee and without her input the evening would not have been the resounding success it was.

31 May 2003

## Diamond Jubilee Daughters

SI Ashton joined with the other "Diamond Jubilee Daughters," our Sister Clubs throughout our Region and our guests from over the water on the Isle Of Man, at a super evening of fun and friendship hosted by our Mother Club, SI Manchester. The symbolic candle lighting ceremony set the mood and helped us focus on our friendship links.

As with any family get-together we each "did a turn" and the evening saw various acts featuring naughty school children, patient teachers, story telling, modern folksongs and choral singing. The Bury Surprise gave a humorous insight on what we would be doing if we weren't Soroptimists. (What spare time!).

Ashton Jazz performed, albeit with some of the troupe on well deserved holidays, but the dancers still gave a polished performance. Prior to the concert we all ate a marvellous buffet supper, prepared and served by SI Manchester. The evening was rounded off with Auld Lang Syne, before we went our separate ways still resolving to keep our friendship links alive.



President Dorothy Shaw( 2002/3) with Club members before the start of a meeting. This was held at the Town Hall Ashton under Lyne.

### ***Dorothy Shaw (Pres. 2002/3), writing in 2003, said:***

Looking back over a past year that has just flown by, it is surprising and gratifying to see how much we have achieved as Soroptimists in the form of service to the as Soroptimists in the form of service to the community----local and wider a field fund raising, and enjoyable,sometimes hilarious social occasions.

The President's Charity made a donation of 50 to Age Concern Ashton under Lyne with whom we built up close links. Fund raising took various forms; kind donations from friends, participation in the Beer Walk, a Murder Mystery Evening, a Musical Evening held at Waterloo School. Age Concern Ashton allowed the Club to use it's fine facilities to stage a Fashion Show with the help of Lavinia's Dress Agency and later to have a Table Top Sale. The Bridge Drive at Ashton Golf Club was a new venture and very successful.

We still continue our successful on-going programme of service to the local community including library duties at Waterloo Primary School and the provision of toiletries, cot sheets and baby clothes for a local Women's Refuge. We have sung carols at Ashdene and Oakwood House, Residential Homes.

We have worked closely with the Countryside Ranger John Courtman and had an enjoyable morning back in October planting 1000 daffodils and flag iris in Knott Hill nature reserve.

Many Club members and friends have knitted "Teddies for Tragedy" for distribution to traumatised children in other countries. Many of our members work hard on various committees in Tameside including, MacMillan Cancer Relief, Save the Children, C.A.B., League of Friends, Stroke Association, Women's Action Group Civic committees and Ashton Operatic Society.

Our link with Waterloo School, which benefits from Soroptimists helping each week in the school library, had reciprocal effects because the Headteacher and governors allowed the Club to present the musical evening in the school hall and also allowed us to rehearse and hone our talents for "Ashton Jazz".

One of the highlights of the year was as a consequence of a liaison with Alice Searle the UK representative of the PIN Project U.K. The profits from the sale of beaded pins helps orphaned children of AIDS/HIV and their carers. This culminated in a wonderful, unique service in Manchester Cathedral where at Evensong the cathedral choir, Soroptimists from Ashton and elsewhere joined the George House Trust. This service had the combined effect of promoting the project, raising the profile of Soroptimism in Action and was a beautiful choral Evensong -- truly memorable.

It was an honour to be involved and the Club is grateful to Canon Paul Denby for all his hard work in the organisation of the Service, to The Very Revd. Ken Riley, Dean of Manchester who led the Worship, to Musical Director Christopher Stokes, the Choir and organist Jeffrey Makinson. The service generated interest in Soroptimism--with many people making inquiries about the movement.

In December four young Carers were awarded certificates by the Club and each was presented with a gift in recognition of their work and achievements. We were honoured to have the Mayor of Ashton, Councillor Pauline Harrison to present the Certificates and afterwards we were entertained in the Mayor's Parlour when we had light refreshments and a very informative talk about the Civic life of Ashton and the wider environs of Tameside.

It was not all work and no play! Eight Club members attended the Glasgow Conference in October 2002 and it was hectic, sometimes hilarious and also inspiring with excellent speakers.

Our annual Christmas Dinner at Bredbury Hall was an enjoyable evening in pleasant company.

We also attended Ashton Rotary Evenings particularly the Egyptian Mummy Evening. We hope to maintain our links with the Rotary Club of Ashton.

The Ashton Club members demonstrated how versatile they are by participating in a concert organised by a sister Club in Warrington. As "Ashton Jazz" they gave Catherine Zeta Jones a run for her money and the Club owes a debt of gratitude to Shona Melvin who was so patient and good humoured in producing and directing the hilarious rehearsals and performance in March 2003.

An extremely, enjoyable and entertaining event was planned by Alicia Harris. The Call My Bluff Wine Tasting Challenge was a splendid evening well attended by the local community and other

Soroptimist Clubs. Everyone who took part in the Challenge said how much they enjoyed themselves.

The Bowlers did the the Club proud again this year winning the Rose Bowl for the umpteenth time - well done. The Bowlers gave a donation towards the President's Charity.

It has been a splendid year for welcoming new members into the Club and they have already shown themselves to be willing and enthusiastic. The speakers meetings have been interesting and enjoyable and we must take the opportunity to encourage our friends who are not Soroptimists to come and have a meal with us as guests so they may learn more about us.

Sadly Irene Batty our long standing Honorary Member died in March 2003. Irene had given service and support to the Ashton Club for many years.

A lectern has been given to the Club and dedicated to the memory of Joan Dean, a past member of whom we have fond memories.

Throughout the year there have been many dinners and regional meetings that as Club members we have attended. These help to create bonds of friendship between the clubs and assists in raising awareness of what other groups are doing. Two members from Ashton visited the Antipodes over the winter period - Alicia Harris went to Australia and June Riley to New Zealand - where some useful networking took place.

Finally, Ashton Soroptimists are very proud of our development and use of the Web. Our Web Mistress is very dedicated in updating our site and this is also an excellent way of encouraging others to sample what the Club is up to and encouraging contact.

Our Club continues to attract new members who share our objectives and have a keen interest, not only in local issues but also, in international affairs. Please contact our Secretary if you would like more information about us.

Best Wishes

Dorothy Shaw (Club President in 2002-3)

## **News Archive 2002**

**30 November 2002**

### **P.I.N. Project**

The Club was delighted to support the P.I.N. PROJECT and it's U.K. liaison Alice Searle at a unique Service at Manchester Cathedral. Alice is the U.K. Liaison for the P.I. N. ( People in Need) Project which is based in Kwa Zulu Natal. She spoke movingly in her address of the Project's origins and its hopes for the future. This is a unique project and is entirely funded by the sale of **PINS** which are hand made beaded badges which sell here in U.K. for

The profits from the PINS helps the orphaned children of the victims of AIDS/HIV and their carers, many of whom are their grandmothers. It is a group of these grandmothers who make the PINS.

With the financial help administered by committees of local health care specialists, the children, many of whom will die as a result of AIDS or from an AIDS related illness, are given access to better medical care and nutrition. The Grandmothers are helped by a support network of counsellors and social workers based within their community.

The Club hopes to maintain a link with the P.I.N Project after the Service.

Some members of George House Trust and Soroptimists from other Clubs in the region came together with other members of the public and groups from the north West, and all were uplifted by the wonderful singing from the Cathedral Choir. The Service took the form of Choral Evensong, the Choir singing so beautifully the poignant Magnificat and the Nunc Dimittis, truly apt in the pain of losing someone precious.

The Club was grateful that Lynn Dunning, who is the Immediate Past President of our Federation could take time in her busy schedule to read the Second Lesson. Also thanks must be extended to all who took part in anyway in the Service, to the staff of the Cathedral, Director of Music, Choir and Organist. Also a thank- you to all who supported the Pin Project by buying Pins and kind donations. Especial thanks go to the Dean of Manchester, Ken Riley for his moving address and to Canon Paul Denby for making it all possible.

**19 October 2002**

## **Planting for Posterity**

A very successful "Planting for Posterity" took place at Knott Hill Nature Reserve in Ashton. Along with John, our friendly and very knowledgeable Countryside Ranger, Soroptimists and their families planted specially chosen native daffodils and flag iris to replenish a wooded area within the nature reserve. Next year we hope to revisit the area both for gentle walks to enjoy the results of this year's efforts and to continue with the planting. We were blessed with a lovely sunny morning and along with our three youngsters, Ben, Holly and Samuel we took full advantage of the day to learn new some skills and get to know some interesting facts about our area.





18 September 2002

## Soroptimist Sunday

John Courtman, Countryside Ranger, based at Park Bridge Heritage Centre in Ashton with I.P.P. Dorothy.



Photo: Alicia Harris

The photo shows Dorothy with John and the "friends" he brought along to help illustrate his talk.

The Speaker Meetings now take place at a different venue from the former Schoolhouse Restaurant, Stamford Square, Ashton.

**Irene Melvin was President 2001/2.** During her year, Irene who is a teacher by profession, chose C.A.F.T (CHILDREN'S ADVENTURE FARM TRUST) as her Charity. Throughout her year many events to support her Charity were organised. These included a Quiz Night and a "Trash and Treasure" evening. Also in President Irene's year the Soroptimistashton website was highly commended at the Tameside "e awards".



At the *Distribution of Charities* President Irene presented Children's Adventure Farm Trust with a cheque.

24 October 2002

## Bowling News

On 24 October the A.G.M. of the Bowling Club of S.I. Ashton Under Lyne was held at the home of the Captain.

Captain reported that S.I. Ashton had enjoyed the season and had finished 6th out of 11 teams in its division of the Tameside League. The Club once again won the Rose Bowl in the South Lancs. Soroptimist competition in spite of incurring a handicap! Thanks to Margaret Emsley, June Riley and Barbara Slack for organising the event.

The Jock Keddie Competition took place in September when Barbara Slack won the singles competition, Vivien Abbott being runner-up. Doubles winners were Christina Grimshaw and Sybil Guest. Betty Barnes and Barbara Thompson were second. Betty Barnes also won the Grimshaw Globe which is awarded to the player having scored the most points in League Matches during the season. The team reached the quarter-finals of the Knock-out Cup and lost narrowly to Manor Park.

We ran the R.J. Trophy with the Labour Club when we raised £39--17 which will go to the President's Charity ( Age Concern, Ashton). In all a busy and successful season.

Any Soroptimist who is interested in "having a go " as a Bowler should contact their own club to see if they have an established Team. If there isn't, why not encourage the Bowlers within your Club? I am sure there will be a few, quietly hiding their "lights under a bushel" to start a team within your Club. The beauty of the Game is that anyone can join in the exercise in the fresh air and have fun.

This is an account of a meeting between one of the members of SI Ashton and a group in Australia illustrating the links that can form between groups in two different parts of the world. President Alicia and her husband Graham were on the trip of a lifetime to celebrate a special Wedding Anniversary and we are grateful to them for the following article.

### **Meeting Soroptimists in Australia - A visit "Down Under"**

When my friend asked me what I wanted to do whilst staying with her in Melbourne, I asked her if she could look up in the Library if there was a Melbourne branch of Soroptimist International. True to form Anne looked up the local branch which was Ringwood and Foothills. I made contact with President Betty Spikin (who is a Lt. Colonel in the Salvation Army) and during the months running up to our visit I had several emails from her. An invitation was given to me and Graham (Soroptimister for the day!) and morning tea with several members was arranged. We were made very welcome and spent a couple of hours on our whistle stop visit before leaving for Philip Island to see the Penguin Parade later that day.

SI Ringwood and Foothills run on very similar lines to SI Ashton, their activities including a Half Way House which is a Refuge for women and children from violent husbands or partners. They also present a Scholarship for excellence in Science at secondary school level. Ringwood also hosts an Eisteddfod which affords young musicians the opportunity to perform in front of an audience and is due to the dedication and hard work of one of their Club members Ruth Hawkins.

Each year SI Ringwood and Foothills presents the Loris Graham Award for excellence in Pianoforte which is presented in memory of a former club member. Apparently Club members hold a regular

Happy Hour (the first Wednesday in each month) for the residents of a Nursing Home. A Linen and Lace Afternoon was held in one member's home and this was a fundraiser for that particular year.

Like SI Ashton-under-Lyne Ringwood and Foothills also have Daffodils close to their hearts but in their case they were selling Daffodils continuing their support for the Anti Cancer Council. So as you can see, we might have been in Australia but we could quite easily have been in Ashton-under-Lyne! I presented President Betty with a booklet, our History of the Club and a book on Ashton-under-Lyne and Mossley and in return received a Pennant Banner which I handed over to President Dorothy.

Sadly, there were no Bowlers in SI Ringwood and Foothills BUT during our stay with my cousin in Bowen, North Queensland I was introduced to Edwina Naylor, my cousin's neighbour. She is a Bowler so, Graham, Diana, Michael and myself were taken off to Wangaratta Bowling Club, Bowen, Queensland and we had an introduction to Lawn Bowls. We were introduced to Club members which included two aboriginal families and we divided up into teams of 6. We started off at 7pm, it was 32 degrees and under floodlights. We had bare feet and borrowed bowls. It was a night I will never forget, we had a lot of fun, and I was the first "toucher" in both halves of the evening and was awarded with two bags of Crisps as my prizes.

*Alicia*