

15 Dec 2008

Christmas 2008

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS PREVIEW EVENING AT BRAMHALL HALL, CHESHIRE

Social Secretary Jacque writes:-

"The unveiling of Bramhall Hall's Christmas Decorations on Friday 12 December 2008 was attended by 15 Club members who braved the cold evening to be some of the first to see the unveiling of these fabulous Christmas Decorations.

"Designed by their talented team of florists and willing helpers the decorations cover three floors of the Great Hall to the Servants Quarters up in the eaves.

"The group enjoyed festive music and carol songs accompanied by Alison Davenport and her trio of singers. The evening continued with the group relaxing in the Main Hall with a glass of hot mulled wine and a mince pie whilst listening to Medieval Music. An enjoyable evening was had by all, to put us into the Christmas Spirit of Yesteryear, and it is hoped to have a similar visit next year."

The Club celebrated Christmas with a party held at Stanley House.

7 Dec 2008

Soroptimist Sunday

President Usha welcomed Club members to The Hindu Temple in Ashton on December 7th. The guests found the event to be both moving and enlightening and enjoyed the delicious Indian and English food they shared afterwards.

9 Nov 2008

Remembrance Day

President Usha and Club members took part in the annual Remembrance Day Parade in Ashton town centre. Usha laid a wreath of poppies at the War Memorial on behalf of the Club.

The Club assisted the Royal British Legion (Stalybridge and Dukinfield Branch) in selling poppies in the Annual Appeal.

8 Nov 2008

SIGBI Conference in Barbados

President Usha and FMB member Dr Margaret Emsley attended the Annual Conference held this year in Barbados. Usha reported that over 900 delegates attended in a spirit of friendship and fun and that the new Federation President Carwen spoke of putting the optimism back into Soroptimism!



President Usha with conference colleague.



Dr Margaret Emsley photographed at the Conference

30 Oct 2008

Libray Project

Sadly the Library Project held at Waterloo School has now come to end after nine years of continous service by Club members. The school thanked the Club for all their help over the years.

Recognition for Club Members

The Club congratulated Sharman Birtles on her recent appointment as Bench Chairman of Manchester City Magistrates. At the recent Business meeting Ms Birtles gave the Club an insight into her new role.

SI Ashton members were delighted to hear that Barbara Thompson, a Club member of many years standing, was given a lifetime Award for Services to the League of Friends based at Tameside Hospital.

Tameside Hospital *Staff Matters* said:-

"On Wednesday 22nd October, Barbara Thompson, Chairman of the hospital's League of Friends and ex-Northwest Regional Chairman of Attend was invited to London for the Annual General Meeting of Attend, formally National Association of Hospital and Community Friends, to receive a very special award. Barbara has worked tirelessly for 30 years to ensure that the work of Tameside Hospital's League of Friends volunteers is recognised on a national and local level, and that their work continues to support patient comfort and care. She volunteered for 9 years as an Attend Officer for the Greater Manchester area which involved sharing information and ideas with other hospital's league of friends, and latterly 6 years as the Regional Chairman for the Northwest serving on the Board. At the AGM, she was awarded with an Honorary Life Membership, which recognised her life-long dedication to the work, aims and principles of Attend. Barbara said, "I am surprised and delighted to be acknowledged in this way. I will continue to champion the work of volunteers at this hospital."

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Tameside Hospital warmly welcomes volunteers for the League of Friends, To find out more please contact the hospital directly on 0161 331 533.

Ashton Soroptimists have a long tradition as volunteers with different groups, and are committed to the ideal of Service to the Community, be it local,national or international.



Barbara with her award.
Photo by kind permission of Attend.

24 Sep 2008

Lancashire Woman Of The Year Lunch

President Usha, President Elect Jill and former Club Presidents; Linda, Irene, Gina and June attended the *Lancashire Woman Of The Year Lunch* held at the Mytton Fold Hotel, Langho near Blackburn when Sue Hayward from Blackpool received the accolade of Woman of the Year.



Former Presidents Linda and Irene, President Usha, F. P's. Gina and June and President Elect Jill at the Mytton Fold Hotel.

7 Sep 2008

Ghost Walk

A group from the Club braved the wet evening and enjoyed a "Ghost Walk" around Gorse Hall, Stalybridge.

Afterwards they enjoyed an out door buffet and all proceeds from the evening will go to President's Charities.



15 Jul 2008

Spreading the Word

President Usha welcomed 8 ladies from within the Tameside area to the meeting on the 15 July,



Visitors looking at Club information

Usha greeted a former colleague, Dr Bill Goldthorp who later addressed the meeting and spoke movingly about the work of The Abu Kiwanuku Trust.



Dr Goldthorp gave an insight of the work of the Trust in treating Ugandan women who had suffered fistulas as a result of difficult childbirthing procedures and dealt with this most challenging of subjects with compassion and sensitivity.

The Club were moved and touched by the plight of the women and hope for the opportunity later in the year to assist Dr Goldthorp in his work by supporting the Trust.

As the evening continued short Presentations by Club members gave an insight as to work of the Movement. history, and an overview of Programme and Social aspects of the Club.

Membership Sec. Alicia gave out goody bags packed with Club information at the end of a successful evening.

HOWEVER, it is not too late to contact the Club as new and prospective members are always warmly welcomed.

See our contact details if you live in the Tameside area.

If outside the area contact SIGBE on the Links page for more information on the Movement.

Please contact Alicia Harris on 01457 845731 for more details or use the contact facility on the contact page of the website and leave your details.

27 Jun 2008

Chartering Anniversary

Another milestone in the life of the Club was when the 65th Anniversary of the Chartering was celebrated. President Usha on behalf of the Club warmly welcomed the Mayor and Mayoress of Tameside, Councillor Jack Davis and Mrs Carole Davis to Stanley House.

Other guests included the President of Rotary International of Ashton, Mr J. Mellor and the SI South Lancs Regional President Val Moss.

The after-dinner entertainment was provided by the delightful young ladies of the Deepa Ganesh dance group and the Vote of Thanks was given by Past President Linda Fayers.

At the same time as the Club was celebrating certain members were either braving the elements or preparing to, carrying out the first of planned Charity walks and the Club wished them well.



Usha Deulkar and Val Moss.

2 Jun 2008

Long Service

SI Ashton honoured three members each of whom have given twenty years service to Soroptimism.

On behalf of the Club Dr Margaret Emsley and Mrs Edith Brown were presented with a gift of flowers and the good wishes of their sister Soroptimists. Unable to be present was Mrs Sybil Guest and she received her flowers later at home.

The three members are very active within the movement and bring their years of experience as a guiding influence to the life of the Club.



Mrs Edith Brown, Dr Usha Deulkar Club President and Dr Margaret Emsley.

19 May 2008

Willow Wood

President Usha welcomed Mr John Fellowes from Willow Wood Hospice as the first Speaker of her Year. John spoke about the origins of the Hospice, its building and the future plans for the care of the people of Tameside and Glossop.

In a witty and moving talk he gave the Club many insights as to how the *Family* of the Hospice, ie the staff, volunteers and many supporters work together to create a happy and positive atmosphere for patients and the families.

The Club is looking forward to supporting the Hospice during Usha's Year as President.

27 Apr 2008

Time Capsule

At a special ceremony at St Michael and All Angels, also known Ashton Parish Church, a Time Capsule was placed in the Undercroft of the Church.

It contained memorabilia of SI Ashton to give future generations some insight into the Club's 65 years in Ashton under Lyne. IPP Gina Ullman and Club members attended the Ceremony which was suggested by former President Alicia Harris. The Club is grateful to Betty, the liaison between the club and clergy and to Canon Roger Farnworth of St Michael's Church for officiating at the Ceremony.

The photograph shows IPP Gina with Club members and the Rev. Roger Farnworth before the interment of the Time Capsule.



Below are two photographs showing views of the Parish Church and information about this unique building can be found on our links page where there is more about the town of Ashton under Lyne.



Ashton Parish Church, St Michael and All Angels, Diocese of Manchester.



These photographs were taken in the spring of 2008.
Photographs by kind permission of M. Clark

21 Apr 2008

Annual General Meeting

The meeting began with Reports of Officers 2007/8 and the Election of Officers to serve for 2008/9.

President Gina thanked everyone for all their help and support during her Year and read letters from the recipients of the Distributions of Charities thanking the Club for the monies raised.

Membership Secretary Alicia conducted the Change of Insignia ceremony and the Club welcomed its 65th President, Dr Usha Deulkar. Her first task as President was to present IPP Gina with her Past President's badge and the unique Chain of Office for the Past President.

President Usha then thanked Gina warmly for all her efforts during the past year and presented her with a gift of flowers on behalf of the Club.

In closing Usha announced that her Presidential Charities would be the Dr Kiwanuka Memorial Trust and [Willow Wood Hospice](#).



President Usha and IPP Gina.

Our new President Dr Usha Deulkar writes:-

"I am a Medical doctor. I did M.B.B.S from Pune University and moved to Mumbai to get my postgraduate qualification in anaesthesia. I came to this country to get a further education in anaesthesia. After finishing a Fellowship in anaesthesia and accreditation I was appointed as a Consultant anaesthetist at Tameside General Hospital, Ashton -U-Lyne in 1994. I was actively involved in improving standards of anaesthesia and training and teaching various grades of medical and nursing staffs.

"One my wishes was to do some charity work and I was looking for an opening to do so and to my surprise our secretary /manager Alicia Harris showed me the way by suggesting I may like to become a Soroptimist. I thank for her doing so and enjoy being a member of Ashton Club. My hobbies are walking, travelling, reading and Transcendental Meditation. When time permits I love going to the theatre and to music concerts.

7 Apr 2008

[Distribution of Charities 2008](#)

President Gina welcomed back the Rev E. Baker from her chosen charity ' Send a Child to Hucklow Fund' to receive a cheque for £1,600. Other recipients were *The Friends of Gorse Hall* who received £200 and the Audenshaw Masonic Lodge, £50.



President Gina presenting the cheque on behalf of the Club to the Rev. Ernest Baker.

6 Mar 2008

Blue Plaque Award to Lillian Buckoke nee Urmston

Councillor Jackie Lane, Head of Heritage and Cultural Services within Tameside MBC welcomed the Mayor of Tameside MBC and Hannah Day aged 91, the older sister of Lillian to St Paul's School Stalybridge for the unveiling of a Blue Plaque. Regional President(South Lancs Region, Val Moss and IPP Rena from SI Huddersfield were also present.

A contingent from SI Ashton, who proposed the Spanish Civil War nurse Lillian for the award also attended the moving Service and Dedication. School children and midwives of the present day from the hospital where Lillian trained took part.



Ashton Club members with Regional President Val. Moss and IPP SI Huddersfield, Rena Souter.

Lillian Urmston as she was known before her marriage was born in Stalybridge in 1914 and she died in 1990.



The Blue Plaque.

Lillian attended St Paul's School, Copley and the Sunday school and was also a Girl Guide.

After training as a SRN and qualifying as a midwife at Ashton Lakes Infirmary she nursed in Spain during the Spanish Civil War and then later during WW2 in Italy where she was

injured at Anzio. After the war she married, her husband was the doctor who treated her injuries in Italy. She went on to work with survivors of the death railways and later with sex-workers in Singapore. She died in 1990.

The Blue Plaque to Lillian is one of a number throughout the Borough. Others remembered are Hannah Mitchell, Suffragist, of Ashton, a local leader in the Suffrage and Labour movements in the early years of last Century and Mary Moffat, Missionary who has two dedications, one of which is at at Fairfield School for Girls where she attended in the 1700's.

Mar 2008

Ashton Club Go Home to Mother!

Ashton Club members supported President Gina as she attended the 82 Annual Dinner of Mother club SI Manchester. Guests including the Lord Mayor of Manchester with the Lady Mayoress were warmly welcomed by President Christine of SI Manchester and enjoyed food and friendship throughout the evening. The Guest Speaker was Miss Helen Tither the Womans Editor, Manchester Evening News. Toast to SI was given by Miss Karen Humphreys Director Junior Royal Northern College with the response By Miss Val Moss Regional President Sth Lancs. herself a member of SI Manchester.



Guests before the meal



Standing: President Gina and President, Sth Lancs Region Val Moss.
Seated IPP Ann and President Elect Usha of Ashton Club.

18 Feb 2008

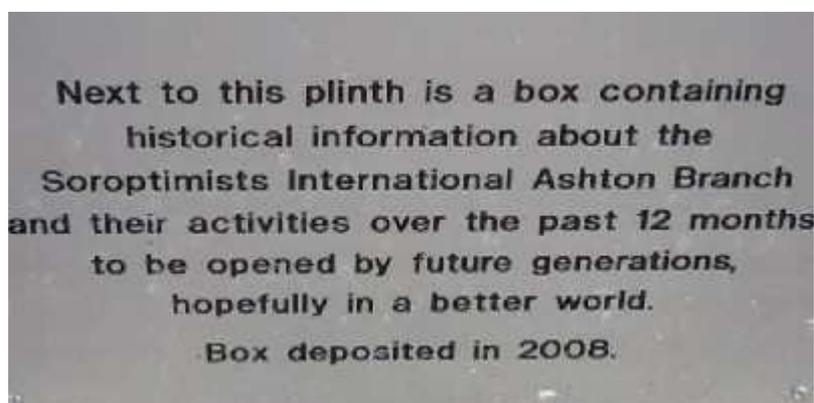
Speaker Meeting - February 2008

The Club was delighted to welcome Alison Ashworth MA, Economy and Environment Executive Director with Tameside Metropolitan Borough who was Guest Speaker. Ms Ashworth gave a very interesting talk about her role within the Council. Also at the meeting President Gina inducted a new member into the friendship and sisterhood of the Soroptimist movement by the presentation of her name badge and receiving her as the newest member of SI Ashton.

30 Jan 2008

Time Capsule

The Sculpture known as the Old Town Map, Stamford Street, Ashton under Lyne, was the site for the burial of a Time Capsule which contained items of memorabilia from SI Ashton. A commemorative plaque has been added to the base.



A further capsule is planned for later in the year at the historic church of St Michael and All Angels (Ashton Parish Church).