

# Sharing turns club's struggle into success

A year without a president could seem too daunting but SI St Helens turned it into a triumph.

The club faced up to the problem and invited Pat Williams and Sandy Taylor, region membership officer and president, to talk to the club's members.

Sue Black explains:

"Following the talk from Pat and Sandy we decided to follow the route suggested and break into three groups.

"It has been a great success."

The club was split into three groups, each to take on running the club for part of the 2016-2017 year—May to August, September to December and January to April.

The club has only four members who still work and only three members without e-mail, so these members were spread across the three groups which would organise and run the team functions and events.

"It worked a treat."

The first team, Team A, had just a few weeks to prepare. Team B had time to plan and packed a lot in and Team C are now halfway through but with their last meeting set up and planned and suddenly another year has been and gone.

"The details don't all matter at this stage but each meeting was analysed and organised accordingly."



**SI St Helens dared to dream.**

Each meeting had a chair, a minuting secretary and someone allocated to fill in the Programme Focus Forms.

"Events were solely organised by the Team on duty and members were only too happy to attend both Social and Business.

"The social functions were great with very varied ideas put forward, and no pressures,

"The Programme Action work easily got done – organised by each team, the PFF was filled in - the business ran as usual. The charity events were to be club-run with no special pressure for any team.

"It works superbly well," said Sue.

There were one or two slight hitches ("It wouldn't be right if there weren't, would it?") but there is no need to be afraid of not having a President ever again.

"We have been allotted our new teams and all are busy talking about their with renewed enthusiasm and hope.

"We carried on organising and planning great events such as afternoon tea in honour of the Queens 90th birthday, garden visits, a talk about Mersey Gateway (the new Runcorn bridge), our Annual Quiz evening and a fun filled Barn Dance whilst still doing PA work and making collections along the way—bras, coats for a homeless, toys for local children and 44 sewing machines to be sent to Tools with a Mission for teaching children to sew.

"These are soon to be followed by our Liverpool walk in honour of International Women's Day and a talk regarding Tissue donation. Busy Busy Busy.

"And we managed to find and enrol two new members!"

The 2017-2018 year will be different.

"We are pleased to say we have a President Elect and we all agree it's been great.

"It is going to be different again this year, but we *will* all try to maintain the enthusiasm whilst keeping the benefits of both."

## CROSBY



Members of SI Crosby were asked a few months ago to collect and donate toiletries for vulnerable Sefton teenagers who reach the age when they must leave care and have to go out into the world with very little.

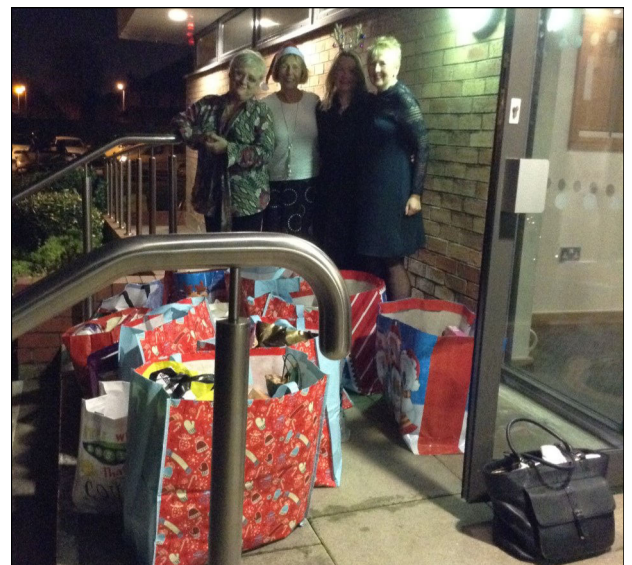
This was followed by a request to include Christmas gifts for young children. At the Christmas meeting, members brought bags

filled with toiletries, Christmas gifts, sweets and chocolates and passed them on to Michelle and Jenny who work with vulnerable families in the Sefton area.

The club also filled more than 40 back packs for Mary's Meals, sending toiletries, stationery, clothing and toys to Malawi and other countries in which the charity works.



**THREE CLUBS:** President Annette Hughes, Margaret Cole and Yvonne Atkinson, members of SI Crosby, getting into the swing of things at their 20s themed evening. Members from SI Bootle and SI Southport joined in with line dancing, Charleston style, a 20s quiz, sing-along and an extremely tasty supper.



## LEIGH AND DISTRICT

On 17 February, 1947, SI Leigh and District was chartered with support provided by SI Bolton and SI Wigan.

At this year's Charter Dinner, Region President Margaret Molyneux, a member of SI Leigh, spoke of her pride in being able to celebrate 70 years of service on the very same day, 17 February.

The occasion was held at Haydock Golf Club and guests included local MP Rt Hon Andy Burnham, who proposed the toast

to Soroptimist International.

Club members were thrilled that they were joined by former members of the club who were able to recall memorable club events of past years.

Leigh Club members have always been proactive in networking, friendship links, and addressing controversial and contentious issues of the day. Honorary member Alice Judge, with nearly 50 years membership said: "To be a Soroptimist provides the opportunity

to meet people from many walks of life."

The main speaker was Warren Smith, Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester, who spoke of his fond memories in his formative years of being a "Leigh lad" with school and church being the focus of family and community life.

It was apparent that the 100 attendees, whilst celebrating Leigh's successes, wished the club many more years of productive Programme Action work.



**Pictures from the  
celebrations for SI Liverpool's  
90th anniversary and SI Leigh  
and Districts' 70th.**





## SOUTHPORT



Southport Soroptimist Diana Beldam celebrated her 100th birthday in January with a party put on by club members.

Diana, who was a beautician by profession, joined the club in 1974 and has been a loyal, hard-working member for all of those 43 years.

An amazing lady, Diana still attends club meetings and events. Understandably, people who meet her for the first time are astounded when they find out her age.

Above: SI Southport's president, Elaine Tenneson, joins Diana in opening the birthday card from The Queen.

SI Southport's Club Room turned into a packing operation for Christmas.

Members gathered to pack toiletries and warm clothing for the homeless.

Following on from the previous year's success, the Alchemy Centre, part of Parenting 2000 in Southport, was open again during the festive period.

Volunteers and staff at the centre served hot meals and beverages to the homeless community and those who have financial problems.

The organisation had asked for donations of food, toiletries and



clothing. SI Southport members gathered in the Baverstock House Club Room to pack 55 bags with toiletries and warm clothing to be handed over to the Christmas Shelter.

## WIDNES



SI Widnes raised a total of £266 for Macmillan at a Burns Night in January.

President Maureen Ellerton greeted the guests and this was followed by the traditional piping in of the haggis, the Selkirk Grace and a five-course meal—not forgetting the tot of whisky.

After the distribution of prizes for the raffle, tombola and the nearest £1 coin rolled to a bottle of whisky, Jean Bray took members through a couple of Scottish dances.

Macmillan, President Maureen's chosen charity for the year, also benefited from the annual Christmas Bingo event, which raised £500 for the organisation.

The club is also supporting a local Guide who is off to The Gambia to do work for charity there.

SI Widnes also continued with the



annual candle-lighting ceremony in conjunction with the International President's Appeal.

## STOCKPORT



When SI Stockport ended up with too much wool for twiddle-muffs there was only one thing for it—knit! Above are some of the woolly hats produced for clients of the Women's Refuge to be given at Christmas.

**Deadline for the next issue of the Leader: June 5, 2017**