



Leigh bowls 'em over

There was big sports news in Leigh last weekend and it had nothing to do with rugby.

SI Leigh and District were awarded the President's Rose Bowl at the regional bowls final. Not only that, but Gail Farrer, also of Leigh, took the individual title.

Members of Widnes, Liverpool, Leigh & District and Crosby competed in the day's knockout competition. Gail Farrer (SI Leigh & District) and Christine Fone (SI Widnes) played the final, where Gail's consistent long-game led to her taking the match.

Margaret Cole, President of SI Crosby, presented Gail with the Tricia Fahey Cup, named for the Crosby club member who devised the regional bowls competition

when regional president.

Regional President Sandy Taylor presented the President's Rose Bowl to Margaret Molyneux and her Leigh team. Over the season they had gained the most points in their matches against Soroptimist clubs throughout the Region.

Regional bowls coordinator Dot Massey said, "We were blessed with fine weather for our finals event, held once again in the splendid setting of Pennington Hall Park, Leigh."

"As always competition was keen.

"However, players and supporters showed their genuine appreciation of the skill and determination on show.

"It was a good day!"



Above: Margaret Cole (right) presents the Tricia Fahey Cup to Gail Farrer, of SI Leigh & District. Top: Regional President Sandy Taylor with the winning Leigh team.

LEIGH

SI Leigh and District have been celebrating their 70th Anniversary Year, which will culminate in their Charter Dinner on February 17, 2017, which is the anniversary of their charter in 1947.

A varied programme of events took place in July for a Friendship Weekend.

Representatives from Mons Borinage Belgium, the club's Friendship Link, joined members past and present and supporters at a Friday evening get-together meal.

On Saturday, members and friends enjoyed a visit to Quarry Bank Mill, Styal. Having a Leigh member who works as a Building Surveyor at this National Trust-restored industrial Revolution mill, meant a personalised tour complete with an afternoon tea in the beautiful Quarry Bank House, which was the Mill Owner's home.

A Sunday service of celebration was held at a local Church and Golborne High School students provided a range of vocal and instrumental accompaniment to the planned theme of Service, Commitment and Thanksgiving, making the day memorable and enjoyable for all concerned.

Club President Avis Freeman said "I am delighted so many people were able to join in the weekend celebrations at the start of such a significant year".



Above, SI Leigh and District members and friends learn about the apprentices' diet in the Apprentice House kitchen at Quarry Bank Mill.

MANCHESTER



SI Manchester marked the end of a year of celebration with a champagne afternoon tea to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the club's charter.

Speakers, including president Molly Byrne Robinson, talked about the growth of the international organisation. SI Manchester was the second club chartered in the UK.

Members enjoyed a very sociable end to the anniversary year.

WIDNES



The weather forecast was for thunder but SI Widnes enjoyed a fine day for the outing on the L'eau-T Cuisine Restaurant Cruiser on the Shropshire Union canal.

The boat is based at the Mill Hotel. It set off towards the Northgate Lock and the starters were served, followed by a sorbet.

After collecting the main courses on the way back, it headed the other way, towards Hoole Lane Lock.

A huge cheer was heard when SI Widnes was mentioned being on board along with tourists from UK and abroad who were also made to feel very welcome.

The main courses were followed by a good selection of desserts and coffee before the boat returned to the Mill Hotel where the Soroptimists had time to take a 15 minute stroll into the centre of Chester, or just simply sit outside and relax with a drink before the coach trip home.

President Maureen Ellerton held a raffle on the coach which made £70 towards her charity, Macmillan.



Twenty-two guests joined members of SI Widnes for an afternoon tea to find out more about Soroptimists during Membership Month. The guests were known to members in some way or had expressed an interest in joining. On display were items relating to Programme Action work and Friendship Links. There was a free raffle for guests with Soroptimist mementoes as prizes.

BURY



Banqueting and togas were on the agenda when four Bury members and two Latvian Soroptimists joined SI Cirencester and District for a Friendship Weekend.

The visitors were welcomed into the Cirencester members' homes for a weekend of eating, drinking, sharing ideas and making new friends.

Following a welcome reception on

the first evening, the next day the visitors were taken to the Cotswold village of Bibury and saw Arlington Row—cottages built in 1380 as a monastery wool store.

They prepared for the evening banquet with cake in a quaint little tea room and refreshments and more cake at the Chedworth Roman Villa, where the guided tour was led by the Roman Guardsmen.

Dressed in togas, the Soroptimists (and a couple of Soroptimists) visited the Corinium Roman Museum in Cirencester for the evening's sumptuous banquet prepared by the Cirencester Soroptimists. They were then free to look around the museum.

On Sunday morning a walk around South Cerney, which lies within the Cotswold Water Park, ended in South Cerney Church where one of the villagers was celebrating her 90th Birthday.

The President's 68th Charter Lunch took place in a Marquee at Ingleside House. The drinks reception was followed by a beautiful lunch and a talk on life in a Roman villa.

The Bury members hope to see some of their new friends again at Bury's Charter Dinner in October.

Newer member Diane Nicholsby said she found the weekend very useful.

"It gave me valuable insight into Soroptimist groups and how they work together to improve the plight of women both locally and internationally," she said.

ST HELENS

SI St Helens members are getting things done with a new format, breaking the club up into three groups and finding a boost in both fun and enthusiasm.

Over the summer activities have included:

- A Tour of St Helens Cemetery's historic sites with local heritage guide Marlene Downey, of SI Leigh and District. The £105 raised was match funded by the government and sent to Handicap International.

- A celebration afternoon tea for Her Majesty The Queen—with the Queen's representative the

Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside, Dame Lorna Muirhead, as special guest, along with her five St Helens Deputy Lieutenants.

The £850 raised from this will be distributed to local groups.

- A project to collect sewing and knitting machines is under way.

- A special raffle at the club's Summer outing raised a total of £85 for the Diamond Education Grant.

- A cheque for £1085 was presented by Anne Jones to the Lilac Centre Breast cancer care unit within St Helens Hospital.

The money was destined to help provide headwear, scarves and thermometers to lend to chemotherapy patients. The money was raised by selling felt and knitted pink flowers.

SI St Helens is now busy planning for the Macmillan Biggest Coffee Morning at Knowsley Hall.



STOCKPORT



SI Stockport presented 160 Activity Muffs to Stepping Hill Hospital, which needs an almost endless supply for dementia patients. Matron Florence Bawak was presented with the muffs by Honorary member Pamela Brown, who led the project, and President Ingrid Whiteman. Matron Florence explained that fiddling with the buttons, ribbons and other bits and pieces on the muffs undoubtedly kept the patients calmer. The muffs were made with the help of SI Stockport members' friends, children and staff of St Luke's School in Glossop, Bramhall U3A Knitting Group and Members of Stockport Retired Teachers Association. Some muffs have also gone to care homes and one even found its way to Australia.



Soroptimists take a break for the summer, right? Not at SI Crosby, where the summer programme seems to have been packed.

Fun and friendship were the order of the day at the Crosby Carnival in July. It was SI Crosby's first year with a stall at the carnival and members wanted to showcase the organisation, the charities supported and where they assist in the local community.

It was also an opportunity to publicise their latest project, toilet twinning.

It was an extremely successful day, both by making the general public aware of toilet twinning and how they could help and also publicising Soroptimist International.

"We had 15 ladies who were inter-

ested in joining our Club and 46 members of the public interested in toilet twinning, including the Mayor and Mayoress of Sefton," said club communications officer Pauline Clark.

"Our loo-se change chamberpot also gathered the sum of £53.85 so we are well on the way to being able to twin our first toilet. It was a very successful day and one which we hope to repeat in the future."

July also saw the club hold an afternoon tea in aid of the Meru Women's Garden Project.

President-Elect Annette Hughes opened up her garden for the event. Guests were greeted with a glass of fizz and then served afternoon tea with delicious sandwiches and wonderful cakes, all made by

members of the Fundraising Committee. There was entertainment and raffles and in total the event raised £615.00.

Members of SI Crosby also helped with the strawberry afternoon tea in support of Sefton Women's & Children's Aid. Guests were welcomed with a glass of red/white wine, strawberries and cream, scones and unlimited tea or coffee. SI Crosby also had their bagatelle stall and a raffle.

The event raised £740.00, plus £300.00 donated by Bibby's.

Lions, Rotary and SI Crosby got together for the annual barbecue for the local visually impaired. Guests were transported to the venue and service club members made sure their day went with a swing.

BENEVOLENT FUND

The SIGBI Benevolent Fund exists to help members who may be having financial difficulty, whether this is in meeting everyday expenses or in facing a large, unexpected expense.

All queries and applications are in **complete confidence**.

For more information on the fund and how to apply, contact the regional representative, Lesley Pritchard by email at lesley-margaretpritchard@hotmail.co.uk or write to:

Lesley Pritchard
59 Fields Road
Haslingden
Rossendale
BB4 6QA

Or contact the Federation office:
Phone 0161 480 7686

WARRINGTON

Eleven members of SI Warrington, including crew member Chris Wood, took to the water for a day on the Bridgewater Canal on the Wizard, the accessible canal boat operated by the Warrington Disability Partnership.

Starting out from Stockton Heath, the Wizard travelled through Warrington, Thelwall and Lymm before stopping at the Brown Owl at Agden for lunch.

Then it was back to the start, with several members having a go at steering—they refuse to call it zig-zagging along the canal, preferring the term "tacking."

