



85 Years of SI Bournemouth
September 2023



There has been a Seroptimist club in Bournemouth since 1938.

What has Seroptimist International Bournemouth (SIB) achieved over the past 85 years?

Famous members - Dr Doris Odlum

1890 - 1985



- Dr Doris Odlum was a celebrated Consultant Psychiatrist who founded a charity now known as Dorset MIND and was well regarded locally and nationally.
- She supported suffrage and peace campaigns and was an early female Consultant Psychiatrist. Doris was an active member of SIB often giving talks about mental health issues.

Famous members - Elisabeth Whitworth Scott 1898 - 1972



- One of our former members may be the only Soroptimist to be celebrated inside a British passport! Her image was used inside the 2015 - 2020 issue celebrating the UK's creative and cultural contributions to the world.
- Elisabeth Scott, born in Bournemouth, was one of the first women to train as an architect, completing in 1924.
- She designed local buildings, most notably the Bournemouth Pier Theatre. Nationally she designed the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre in Stratford upon Avon, a college building at Cambridge and the Shredded Wheat Factory!

Bournemouth Soroptimist Housing Association



- In 1964 members of SIB purchased a house at number 54 Charminster Avenue. They saw a great need to provide simple accommodation for women who had retired from jobs serving others, on limited income and pension.
- The home was well used for 34 years and was handed over in 1998 to Bournemouth Churches Housing Association. It is still used today as temporary accommodation for women in need.



Drink Spiking Campaign: Federation Award

- In 2005 SIB was given a Federation Award for a campaign that brought together Dorset police, other agencies and university students to create a pack raising awareness of the dangers of drink spiking to women.
- These packs were shared nationally and internationally and were seen as excellent practice, helping young women to avoid dangerous situations.

Soroptimist International Award

- In October 2009, members from SI Dhaka and SI Bournemouth received the Best Practice Award for the project 'Cementing Futures - Literacy in Bangladesh'.
- This initiative funds girls to attend primary school, learning skills to help them fulfil their potential; it continues today.



Our 75th Anniversary Project - Celebrating Science

- With only one in five girls opting for the whole range of science subjects, SIB issued a challenge in 2013 to young women in secondary schools to develop projects that could help people living in the poorest parts of the world.
- This was the beginning of our annual STEAM challenge, now having run successfully for 10 years.



The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS)

- SIB was awarded the QAVS in the Birthday Honours list in 2018 for the Celebrating Science / STEAM project.
- The Palace said, “The Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service 2018 represents a tremendous achievement for your organisation. We hope that everyone involved, and particularly your volunteers, feel immensely proud of the recognition that this Award represents.”




**The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service**

Our 80th Anniversary Project - Toilet Twinning


- Good sanitation and drinking water are fundamental to communities. Yet 1 in 3 people worldwide don't have access to somewhere safe, private or hygienic to go to the toilet.
- Toilet Twinning is a charity that funds toilets in developing countries. SIB felt this was a worthy cause and we were delighted to raise funds to twin 80 toilets in places around the globe during our 80th year.

This toilet has been
Twinned
by Bournemouth Soroptimists' 80th Anniversary



with a latrine at

Latitude: 34.59107 Longitude: 66.41919
Poi Kotal, Afghanistan
Latrine No. 26261

 toilet
twinning.org

1 in 3 people worldwide don't have a loo. By supporting Toilet Twinning you are helping to flush away poverty. Tearfund is a Registered Charity Number 265464 (England and Wales) and Number SC037624 (Scotland).

www.toilettwinning.org

F/81595

Our Current Programme Action Groups

- Programme Action refers to the projects undertaken by Soroptimist Clubs which support Soroptimist International's mission and vision. The overarching theme is 'Educate to Lead' and projects must Educate, Enable and Empower women and girls to help them to improve their lives. SI Bournemouth's current programme groups are:
 - STEAM challenge
 - Violence Against Women and Girls
 - Planet
 - International
 - Lobbying

STEAM Challenge

- Starting with the Celebrating Science project, this project has now been running for ten years. It invites secondary school girls to develop initiatives that will improve the lives of women and girls in other parts of the world; the teams then pitch these to experts in the field and are judged.
- Hundreds of girls have participated and many have gone on to study or work in STEAM fields, often thought of as the purview of men in the past.
- Supported by local businesses and Dorset dignitaries every year; this is why we were awarded the QAVS.



Violence Against Women and Girls

This group is currently focusing on reducing all forms of abuse by:

- The national Special Domestic Abuse Court observations project, report issued June 2023.
- Joint VAWG conference with BU where more than 200 people came together to share and learn.
- The UN 'Orange the World' campaign, 25th of every month, with 16 days of activism in November. BCP is engaging this year - watch this space! There will be 'orange' events all around town from November 25th to ensure the message gets out.





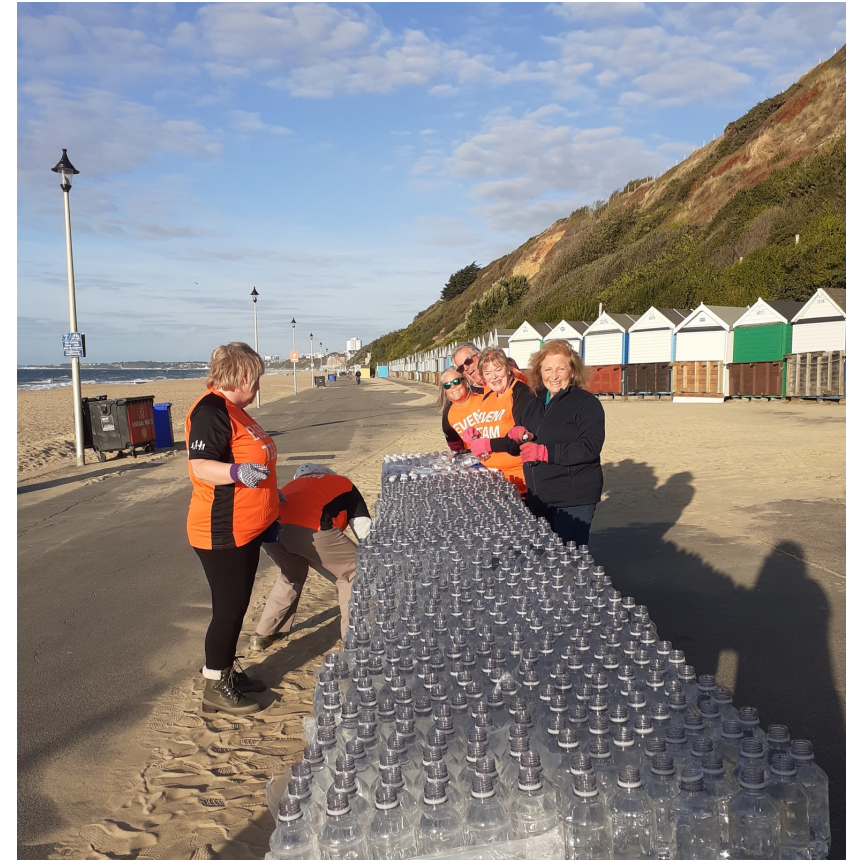
Planet

We engage in many diverse projects that support the environment. These include:

- encouraging members to protect bees
- planting 45 trees at two schools in BCP in 2020
- 'reduce, reuse, recycle' initiatives
- a single use plastic project with more than 2000 children and their families
- and more - beach cleans, avoiding fast fashion, sustainable gardening, the list grows!

International

- SIB supports education projects in Bangladesh, working with SI Dhaka to fund girls through their education. We raise funds by running a hydration station every year at the Bournemouth Run.
- We support BCP Shout Out / Sister Tama's convoys to Syria and Yemen.
- We link to local initiatives with global reach - City of Sanctuary, Unity in Vision, International Care Network.
- We have international links with several Soroptimist clubs around the world.



Lobbying

- Everything we do is supported by political activity to encourage positive change in our world.
- We align our projects with the UN Sustainable Development Goals to help ensure our energies are used to best advantage.

THE GLOBAL GOALS For Sustainable Development



- SIGBI collects data every year from our programme focus reports. This is collated and reported to the United Nations, demonstrating our commitment and impact.

Conclusion

- Our goal is to participate in meaningful projects locally, nationally and internationally that increase wellbeing and harmony, helping women and girls to reach their full potential.
- We feel our history shows success in many areas!





Soroptimists transform the lives and status of women and girls through education, empowerment and enabling opportunities.

