



# ***Soroptimist Times***

**April 2017**

## **Celebrating 90 Years**

Over eighty guests gathered at the Liner Hotel in February for a magnificent dinner to celebrate the club's 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of receiving its charter. President Joan was accompanied on the top table by the Lord Lieutenant Dame Lorna Muirhead and husband; Lord Mayor of Liverpool Cllr Roz Gladden and husband; President of Cologne Christiane and her husband Horst and Regional President Margaret and her husband. Other guests included May-Britt from our friendship club SI Oslo, eleven other guests from friendship club Cologne and two Soroptimists from SI Edinburgh, who also celebrate their 90<sup>th</sup> Charter this year.

Presidents from several daughter clubs, former Past Club Presidents together with many club members and guests, enjoyed a great meal which was followed by dancing until late.

The music was provided by the Halcyon Syncopators, a 22 piece swing band. What a wonderful celebration!



## Club Milestones

A pull-up banner designed to celebrate our club's history in its 90<sup>th</sup> year was ready in time for the charter dinner. From top to bottom, the milestones of the club's development were commemorated. It paid tribute to our first President, Maud Carpenter along with many other women who achieved 'firsts', including President Justice Rose Heilbron, the first woman KC who sat in the Old Bailey. Regional President Margaret was so impressed by the banner that we were invited to display it at the March regional meeting!



Some of the original eighty founder members are pictured outside the Adelphi Hotel in 1927.



### Change of Insignia

At the end of April, we were delighted to welcome into office our new President, Dorothy Zack-Williams. President Dorothy is pictured with new President Elect Dorcas Akeju, OBE and past President Joan, We wish them all a successful year

### President Dorothy writes:

As the recently appointed President I see myself as an ambassador for the club members. I look forward to working and sharing ideas with the members in order to maintain high ethical standards of Soroptimism. I feel we all have a story to tell about our life experiences and sharing information would be extremely helpful for our members and potential new members.



We have a strong and vibrant executive team and club members and the need to maximize our membership is deemed very important. I am proud to see that new members have joined. I hope this will continue.

I believe in a democratic approach to our activities, through consultations, debates and discussions. Each and every club member has a voice and something to offer. My vision for the future of the club is for it to go from strength to strength. If I am asked can we really achieve this, my answer would be yes we can.

Finally, the charity I will be supporting is Sickle Cell Anaemia, a life threatening inherited blood disorder that is affecting families mainly from minority communities. However, research has shown that Sickle Cell has crossed racial lines and that the stereotype of this condition only affecting certain groups is a myth. Sickle cell is now occurring in the white community. I set up the Sickle Cell support group in 2004 for Individuals and families suffering with Sickle Cell. An educational programme for Health care professionals, and other groups was delivered to raise awareness and understanding. This was deemed necessary due to the lack of knowledge of those caring for patients and in particular young children. I am hoping to get as much support as possible because of the underfunding from the NHS. As far as I am concerned, we all have individual needs and the right to life and good health care.



## Honouring long service

Certificates were awarded to long serving members at the AGM, in honour of their many years of service.

Pictured right, these ten can boast a total of very nearly three hundred years of service!



## Welcome to our latest club members!

Since January this year, the club have been delighted to welcome five new members! (Elaine Stump, Ann Carroll, Katrina Igbiovina, Mary Smith and Lynne Cottrell.) We wish them all many happy years ahead as Soroptimists and look forward to working with them on our projects and fundraising. We hope they find friendship amongst us.



## STOP THE TRAFFIK

On Mon 6<sup>th</sup> March, Sue Woods, Anne Grimes and Elaine Stump attended the tenth annual conference of "Together against Trafficking" – STOP THE TRAFFIK at Oasis, Media City, Manchester. Member Annette Maudsley was helping at the event.

We heard from inspiring speakers in this very dynamic and fast moving conference, who want to make a difference FAST. There were also contributions from key partners, in Nigeria and Romania, working at many different levels tackling cultural customs and differences which are becoming increasingly unacceptable in our Global Economy and Community.

We attended 3 different workshops: Policing, Community and Education respectively. There are now multiple agencies working together in Manchester in the same office, amassing data and information from many sources. This networking between agencies is vital for success against the traffickers. We heard how traffickers use different methods of entrapment, including social media like Facebook, how the general public must look again at what seems ordinary, e.g. Nail bars, car washes etc. and not take situations just at face value. Modern day slavery is going on right now in

your area!

There were several important messages we learnt over the course of the evening:

- That we have to work together
- We cannot stop what we cannot see
- Sense it. Spot it. Stop it.

And one more thing – we enjoyed a tasty meal prepared by the women supported by Saheli, the Confidential Domestic Abuse Support Service in Manchester – absolutely delicious!



## Forward March!

In November 2016, the club recognised the need to raise its profile, particularly in its 90<sup>th</sup> year and to maximise its opportunities to attract publicity. A publicity group was formed with the intention of helping the club to achieve its Growth Plan target of increasing membership by three



members per year. As well as advertising in the local free newspaper "The Link", the group decided to target various opportunities that were centered around International Women's Day for the month of March.

On the day itself, 8<sup>th</sup> March, SI Liverpool were invited by Merseylearn to take part in their lunchtime activities, to raise the profile of women's issues. The event took place at the waterfront building at Mann Island and many workers from the various companies within the building, came to chat with us about our work. Pictured is our PA officer, Sue Woods with some of the many people who learnt about Soroptimism that day!

The following day, the 9th March, we were invited to be present in the new Central Library in William Brown Street. Three club members spent the day in the library foyer and answered questions about Soroptimism from members of the public. The pictures highlight how we were able to raise the club profile.



On March 29<sup>th</sup>, we were at Tesco's supermarket in Allerton. As well as promoting Soroptimism, we collected over £250 for our President's charity, "Butterflies" in a very short time. We also attracted a potential member who will almost certainly enrol.

On the last day of March, SI Liverpool were invited to be a part of a local celebration for International Women's Day at The Black-E in Liverpool city centre.

The event was organised by Savera UK, an organisation dealing with domestic abuse in the black and ethnic minority communities. There was a large crowd of women who came together for various talks, health care and advice. We were able to distribute information about Soroptimism. As a result of the evening, we have since met with a potential partner at Citizens advice in Liverpool 8 and also we have a current potential new member enquiry



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## 30 Years of Friendship!

What is the link between the numbers 30, 60 and 90? The answer is SI Liverpool and her friendship club SI Cologne! Pictured below are some of our guests who attended our Charter Dinner.

This is a momentous year for both clubs, who celebrate 30 years this year as a friendship link, which began in 1987. The cities of Liverpool and Cologne were one of the first twinned cities after WW2 and it wasn't long until the Soroptimist clubs were twinned too. This year, Liverpool celebrates her 90<sup>th</sup> year and in June '17, SI Cologne will celebrate her 60<sup>th</sup> year since being chartered! 13 club members and guests will attend the celebrations in the city and we wish all our 'Soroptimisters' in Cologne a very happy 60<sup>th</sup> birthday!! Alaaf!





## Message from Past President Joan Felgate

In April 2016 I became President of the SI Liverpool Club, quickly realising it was going to be a great responsibility, a bit scary and a steep learning curve was ahead! I felt like 'Eddie the Eagle' on a number of occasions during the year! With the support of the Executive Committee I was able to get through meetings and events, blatantly using their skills and time. I feel very grateful for all their help. Attending celebration lunches and dinners across the Region gave me an opportunity to meet people I would not normally meet such as the Lord Mayor, Dame Lorna and Presidents of the Region. I gained insight to the vast dedicated work by organisations working towards helping people less fortunate than us. I also learnt a great deal about my own City.



As the President, I had the honour of choosing a charity, so I chose Butterflies, a charity that helps and supports children from the age of 5-19yrs: I feel strongly about the lack of NHS Mental Health Services for young children. As a result of the club's fundraising events, we propose to donate £1,600 to Butterflies and £400 each to 'Stop the Traffik' and 'Can Cook'.

I feel honoured to have been the President of Liverpool, to have members with diverse gifts and talent. I hope they will forgive me in asking for their time and support which was given and was very much appreciated. I would like to thank you all for supporting me and for making changes in ensuring implementation of roles, transparency and to practice the meaning of Soroptimism. The development of friendships, involvement in projects and having fun sees the club moving forward. With Dorothy as your next President we have a thriving, lively club continuing the work to support the community.

Thank you all, Joan Felgate.

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## Dates to note

June 28<sup>th</sup>, Club meeting, 7pm

July 10<sup>th</sup> Executive Meeting

July 26<sup>th</sup> Club Meeting, 7pm

Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> Regional Bowls final

Sept 11<sup>th</sup> Exec meeting, 7pm

Sept 12<sup>th</sup>, Charity Lunch at Quayside Grill

Sept 16<sup>th</sup> Regional meeting, AGM & PAC

Sept 24<sup>th</sup> New members & awards lunch, Statham lodge

Sept 27<sup>th</sup> Club Meeting, 7pm

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## And Finally.....

Ann Clayton asks if any club members can help identify this rather run down building?

