



Soroptimist Times

January 2017

Celebrating - Vintage Style!

In November the club celebrated the ninetieth anniversary of the first meeting year in vintage style, with afternoon tea at the Sefton Park Hotel. Members and guests entered into the spirit of the club's founder members by dressing in the style of the 1920's.



The club was inaugurated at Francis' Café in Parker Street, Liverpool on the 30th November 1926 with 28 members. By the time the club was chartered on 15th February 1927 by Mr Stuart Morrow, the founder of Rotary and Soroptimist clubs in America, there were 80 members. Miss Maud Carpenter, business manager of the Liverpool Playhouse, was elected the first President. SI Liverpool was the third club to be formed in Great Britain, there now being around 3,000 Soroptimist Clubs in 124 countries.

After enjoying sandwiches, tea and cakes, member Ann Clayton, gave a fascinating illustrated talk on the history of the club. This was followed by entertainment of the era from talented local singer, Sarah Chidlow, which rounded off the afternoon's fun (all organised by Anne Grimes). Special thanks go to organiser Anne Grimes and to local businessman Mr Stephen Darnell, who generously brought along his vintage Wolsey, Felicity Hat Hire lent us several vintage hats to help us recreate a very special celebration. The club is now looking forward to a dinner celebrating the anniversary of its 90th charter in February.



Celebrating 90 years of service: 1927-2017

Remembrance



In 1928 Liverpool Soroptimists organised the very first Poppy Day. (The Royal British Legion took on the task in future years.) Members continue to support selling remembrance poppies every year. Andrea Scullion, Margaret Bragg, Joan Felgate and Anne Grimes withstood the cold to sell poppies. President Joan and Anne are pictured selling poppies outside Radio Merseyside on November 5th.

On **Remembrance Sunday**, at the Cenotaph St Georges Hall Liverpool two members, Andrea Scullion and Margaret Bragg attended the service of Remembrance and Dedication, representing the club and laying a wreath at the Cenotaph.

It was the 100th Anniversary year of the Battle of the Somme, 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Jutland, 75th year of the start of the Arctic Convoy's 60th Anniversary of the Suez Crisis and the 25th Anniversary year of Combat Operations in the First Gulf War. The service started with the band of the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment.



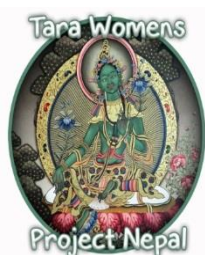
The Parade Commander reported the conclusion of the service to the Lord Lieutenant Dame Lorna Muirhead, DBE, who has previously attended one of the club's lunches and entertained members with tales of her work in midwifery. At the end of the parade Andrea and Margaret enjoyed welcome refreshments inside the Hall.

Marking Human Rights Day

December saw members and guests gathered at Childwall Golf Club for the International lunch which marks the anniversary of the declaration of Human Rights. A very enjoyable meal was followed by entertainment from the excellent *SingMe* choir and, of course, the club's energetic version of 'The Twelve days of Christmas'. President Joan is pictured with Lord Mayor Roz Gladden, her husband and Regional President Margaret Molyneux.



Tara Womens Project Nepal: an update



Jenni Pizer, visited us in July to tell of the efforts that are being made by a group of British women who educate the Nepalese women in the use of reusable sanitary protection. At present these pads are being made in this country, but Jenni sent us an update and link to the facebook page. (fb: [Tara Womens Project Nepal](#))

In October Jenni was able to donate a sewing machine and over-locker. Jenni said that training had initially begun with one machinist and hoped it was the beginning of producing the washable pads for themselves entirely in Nepal. The production of Tara project sanitary kits continues. A machinist, Mumsang, is pictured looking happy with her new work.



Crown Prosecution Service

Guest speaker, Alison Mutch, from the **Crown Prosecution Service**, visited the club to talk about her varied work. The north west area accounts for 12% of the national caseload and there is a mix of cases from murders, serious assaults, rapes and serious sexual assaults . Reports of the latter category are rising as victims become more confident in reporting cases. Many of these happen in families, community groups or educational settings, with a dedicated lawyer dealing with such cases. Domestic abuse accounts for 20% of the caseload and in Liverpool there is a centralised court which has been very effective in driving up convictions for domestic abuse. A recent development is the introduction of coersion and controlling legislation. When a victim complains, for example of a black eye, the pattern of behaviour which led to this point is investigated and court can take it into account evidence such as a partner not letting a woman leave the house without him and locking up all her footwear. Twenty years ago courts often dismissed cases as 'just a domestic': we have moved well away from this, reports Alison. Members of the community can become part of a scrutiny panel (one of the club is such a panel member). Children over 10 years old have reached age of criminal responsibility and children can give evidence and be cross examined over a video link. Alison reported that no cases of FGM have been



prosecuted as yet but awareness has been raised over Merseyside where there is a problem. Alison speaks to Police groups to make them more aware of FGM and that it is child abuse. An excellent informative talk!

Alison is pictured second from left.

SIGBI 82nd Federation Conference held in Malta

Sue Woods writes:

At 3am on a cold November morning President Joan, Dorcas, Dorothy, Geraldine and Gerry, Kathleen and Sue set off for Manchester airport to meet up with fellow Soroptimists to travel to the warmer climate of Malta for our Federation Conference held at the Hilton Hotel 10th – 12th November 2016. Our group and others were staying at the Hotel Cavalieri at St Julians Bay, a ten minute walk from the Hilton Hotel. Geraldine and Gerry had a room overlooking the lovely bay of St Julian, the rest of us had rooms overlooking a building site, workers starting work at 7am! That was not a problem as when at conference you don't have the chance of a lie in.

As we arrived on the Tuesday and were staying for a week, it gave us four days to do some sightseeing. On the Wednesday we visited Valletta the only day it rained and rained and rained. The rest of the week was dry, warm and in the main sunny. Club members chose different outings that covered the east/south of the island and the west/north of the island.

The Conference theme was 'Engineering the Future' and the programme was balanced to include guest speakers from different areas of Engineering, speakers who were working for women's rights and a mix of club projects and best practice awards.

The venue for the conference, the organisation of the event and access to that all important coffee at the morning interval was excellent. All the guest speakers were very good in the content and presentation of their particular field of expertise. I particularly enjoyed Dame Professor Sue Ion who really sold science and engineering for girls and showed an excellent video that showed how schoolchildren at an early age have developed a stereotypical view of who do what jobs – men are the doctors, fire-fighters and RAF pilots and looking very surprised when the women identified themselves in those roles. I also enjoyed and admired Sara Ezabe Malliue who at 20yrs old was able to talk to a full auditorium about what it was



Dorothy Zak-Williams asking a question from the conference floor.

like to be young, female and Muslim with discrimination in each. As a law student I am sure she will go far in her chosen career. Saturday evening was the Change of Insignia and Sandy Taylor, Regional President SI South Lancashire, handed the chain of office over to Margaret Molyneux.

On the day of departure there was storm with thunder and lightning. Thankfully it had cleared before take-off for home and safe arrival to another cold November day.

Recipe book crosses Atlantic

Mary Andrews was in Florida over Christmas and was invited by her friend's daughter to a meeting of her Rotary Club. Mary presented them with a copy of our new recipe book, and was offered their club banner copy. They did not know of Soroptimism, would you believe! Mary reports: "I explained, of course. It was a very interesting meeting, with everyone offering each a 'sad dollar' for a sad moment, and a 'happy dollar' for something which had raised their spirits. The money thus raised was then to be sent to their chosen charity. They have an interesting programme and do a lot of work in the community.'





Children's presents for Parents

Ann, Glenys and Sue wrapped 42 presents for the children attending Centre 56 nursery to give to their parents for Christmas. Eileen and Sue delivered them on the 7th December. It was a mild day and plenty of activity in the playground by the nursery children. Two mums and a volunteer were busy dressing the tree and getting the centre ready for Christmas activities. We were also given a report to share which explains the role the centre plays in supporting women, men and children who have been subject to Domestic Violence. We received a lovely sparkly thankyou card made by the children and a letter from Diane at the Nursery.

Xmas Toy Hampers



Members generously donated toys for children at the suggestion of member Carol Mason. The gifts were for children who would go without otherwise. Some members are pictured with some of the toys which were taken to the South Liverpool Foodbank who arranged for them to be made into 'Toy hampers' and delivered. Cats Byrne who made up the Toy Hampers was very pleased and wrote:



Thank you SO much for your generosity and kindness in your recent donation of toys. I was overwhelmed to receive 3 bin bags full of the loveliest things for children! Rest assured these are already going into hampers for children who otherwise would not have a great Christmas. My children Annabel and James, who help to make up the hampers, say a huge thank you too!
Cats Byrne (South Liverpool Foodbank Volunteer)

Photos of the hampers are available on the facebook page
fb [Annabel James Boutique-Foodbank Toy Hampers](#)

Barely used

At the November club meeting 22 barely used bras were collected and have now been posted off to SI Poole in support of women setting up their own businesses, with the help of the Purple teardrop campaign. (See info sent out by Sue on 02/12). Since the collection more have been donated.
Right: club members enjoyed modelling for the photoshoot!



Dates to note for 2017

Jan 9th **Executive Meeting** 7pm

Jan 25th **Club Meeting** 7pm

Feb 13th **Executive Meeting** 7pm

Feb 22nd **Club Meeting** 7pm Speaker from *Butterflies*

Feb 25th (Sat) **90TH ANNIVERSARY CHARTER DINNER** The Liner Hotel 6.30 for 7.00

Mar 11th (Sat) **Regional Council AGM and Prog.Action Meeting**, Leigh

Mar 13th **Executive Meeting** 7pm

Mar 22nd **Club Meeting** 7pm

Mar 25th (Sat) **Coffee morning (At Anne's Home)**. *t.b.c

April 6th (Thurs) **Talk on Antiques followed by Valuations at Cricket club**, 6.30pm * t.b.c

April 10th **Executive Meeting** 7pm

April 26th **Club Meeting AGM** 7pm – Change of Insignia