



I am proud to become President of SI Liverpool in its 88th year. I joined the club in 2009 and value working with women who want to make a real difference in the world. Each and every woman brings different life experiences and skills to share with others in the club. Their enthusiasm and energy will help in the busy year ahead, working through our projects and social activities, enjoying friendship and fun as we do so.

Our activities include both raising awareness of issues and fundraising both for local causes and for our International charity, Mary's Meals. Local charities will be nominated by members. Our programme includes table sales, fun quizzes, lunches and a public speaking event for school children. We also look forward to social activities such as theatre visits and trips. Social events also form part of our fundraising activities. For example, the 'Alternative Aintree Ladies' Day' and fun Quizzes. A varied programme of entertaining and informative speakers has again been planned.

Some of our fundraising will go to my nominated charity. Alzheimer's Research UK is the leading dementia diseases research charity. There can be few people whose lives have not been touched by the impact of dementia diseases. Scientific research to find the cause, treatment and prevention is vital but the pot of money available depends on charitable donations.

Already we have held a fundraising quiz, a baby shower for The 'BIG project' and funded a day trip to the seaside for children and mothers who have suffered from domestic abuse. I look forward to the rest of our year ahead. It's not all hard work! Along the way the women have a good laugh, enjoy the friendship of others and know that the rewards for the beneficiaries is what it's all about!

President Eileen



MAST awards ceremony

Three members of SI Liverpool were the invited guests of Merseyside Adventure Sailing Trust for their first ever awards ceremony for the Apprenticeship Cup. IPP Anne Grimes, Ann Mercer and Sharon Smith, who fund- raised for the charity through her sponsored swim of Lake Windermere, were thanked for the support given to the charity by SI Liverpool. Their presence at the evening was also so that they could see

for themselves the direct benefits of the club's support on young people across Merseyside. The awards ceremony was a culmination of several teams of young apprentices, who were nominated by their employers, to develop important life skills, as they sailed on a tall ship, between Liverpool, Belfast and Whitehaven. One employer gave a glowing testament to the way his apprentices were now showing a better commitment to team work and to leadership roles than before the trip. And they all had fun too! MP Louise Ellman, opposition member of the Transport Committee, expressed her admiration for the work the trust is doing throughout the North West. As Soroptimists, we were delighted that it was a young female

apprentice who was the overall winner! Well done Laura Woodlass!



Anne Mercer

Having left banking after nearly 30 years, latterly as a Client Relationship Manager in Wealth Management and Retail, I decided to do what I'd wanted to do for a number of years and start my own business. So I decided to train as an independent travel consultant and under the umbrella of a worldwide franchise, launched Mercer Travel earlier in the year. My husband Dave and I have travelled extensively over the past 20 years and as this is something I thoroughly enjoy and am interested in, I thought this was the best route to channel my self-employment. With the help of The Women's Organisation in Liverpool, I have completed many supportive courses e.g. Planning for Success, Tax and National Insurance and Marketing via Social Media and the business is now up and running. I gain my business through friends and family, referrals and lots of local networking and have recently partnered with a local Wedding House for honeymoons and overseas weddings. I advertise through Facebook and my website will be available shortly.

I can honestly say that, although I enjoyed my banking career, it's the best thing I've ever done, who else can say they go round the world every day!

Battle of the Brains



Teams at work!

The winning team, *'The Thinkers'*, was closely followed by *'Quizzing between the Wines'* (who also won the prize for the best team name, chosen by bar staff earlier!).

President Eileen thanked all who had helped and supported the event.

In early July, SI Liverpool held their first fundraiser in aid of Alzheimer's Research UK. The quiz was provided by ARUK. The evening raised £404 and all enjoyed the evening quiz, raffle and prizes.



Overall Winners

Malala inspires young women in Liverpool

President Eileen and Vice President Joan were invited to attend World Merit Day when Malala made her visit to Liverpool. She spoke to a packed hall and, in a lively humorous interview with Sir Ken Robinson, education expert and best selling author she expressed she wanted to inspire in young persons that education empowers and contribute towards independence. 'A Woman's voice is more powerful than any other voice' Also Malala expressed her concern and sadness that so many children are not attending school, especially girls in Syria. Chris Arnold the founder and CEO World Merit presented Malala with an award in recognition for inspiring education for young people.



BIG Project / Guess the baby

After the June club meeting SI Liverpool decided to have fun and boost their donation to the BIG (Birthing in the Gambia) project. First, a baby shower bought in many items suitable for newborns. These were donated to Alder Hey Hospital and the neonatal unit at Liverpool Women's Hospital.



Just look at us now!

Next, a fun quiz with photos of members as babies had us all guessing and laughing over who was who! We raised a further donation of £25 for the international project. Some members are seen posing with their photos, still trying to convince others that they were once so cute.

Summer fun for Centre 56

A donation was given by Liverpool SI to C56 (£502) to help towards financing trips during the summer holidays for the nursery and after-school children with their mothers. (these trips were to be a rare treat for the children) The main visit was to Southport Pleasure Beach on Saturday 16th August. On the day they were accompanied by Diane Hill and Pat Roberts. Radio City 'Cash for Kids' provided lunch for the under fives while the club contributed towards paying for lunches for the mums. A very excited group of children and parents boarded the coach and on arrival at Southport they all were given wristbands and attended a free Radio City Show.

On arrival the children received cards worth five rides each. Braving a chilly day, they did not allow this to dampen their enjoyment and fortunately the rain held off. The group also enjoyed the swing park, a walk down the pier and visited the Penny Slot machines but it was too cold to play on the beach. All enjoyed the day very much.

The nursery also took advantage of bus and train trips especially as the under- fives go free! So they only had to pay for the after school children. The places they managed to visit included New Brighton, Albert Dock, Museums and, as they really enjoyed visiting Otterspool Prom they went again!

All the children, staff and parents sent a big thank you to the club members and were very grateful for the donation that helped towards the cost of the trips. They sent a beautiful hand made thank you card.



Story continues below.....

The under-fives painted brilliant pictures of the fun fair at Southport especially for us- see below:



Dates 2014

8th September. Executive meeting
 10th September. Speaker meeting
 13th September. Regional meeting
 24th September. Club meeting.

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8th October. Open evening 7pm
 13th October. Executive meeting
 22nd October. Club meeting

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6th-9th November. Harrogate Conference
 8th November. Remembrance Sunday Service.
 10th November. Executive Meeting.
 12th November. Speaker. Jerry Turnball on behalf of Alzheimer's Research UK
 22nd November. November Regional Meeting.
 26th November. Club meeting
 29th November. Table Sale at St Columbus, Hunts Cross (set up from 9.30a.m)

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7th December. Christmas Lunch Childwall Golf Club

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2015

12th January. Executive meeting
 14th January. New Year Get Together
 28th January. Club meeting