



# Soroptimist Times

January 2018

## Toy Hampers



As last year, the club made donations of toys and gifts to needy children and teenagers who would not otherwise be able to celebrate Christmas. Member Carol Abbassi kindly delivered 7 bin bags of gifts to be made up into 'toy hampers'. Three of the bags were donated by other club members and four by Carol's friends and colleagues. A donation from a trust fund

also helped to stock the 'toy hampers'.

A thank you was posted on the facebook page for Annabel James toy hampers.: *"Thanks to the AMAZING generosity of the Liverpool Soroptimists who have delivered bin bag upon bin bag of new toys to me - and to Tesco's kind shoppers - and my wonderful kind friends - forever loyal -tonight I have been bagging up the first 20 bags of toys for children we are bringing Christmas to this year! Tomorrow we make them into hampers at the Foodbank - where I am being given a team of merry helpers! How good is that?"*

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

## Supporting C56 Dales Nursery

We again supported Centre 56 Dales nursery this Christmas with presents of hat and glove sets for fourteen nursery children and a selection box for each of the thirty after-school children. Tea, coffee, hot chocolate and treats were also donated to the Mum's coffee morning meet-up group. These were all delivered on the 13<sup>th</sup> December.



A thankyou letter was received from Diane Hill, the Business Support Manager. who wrote: *Many thanks to all he ladies in the Soroptimists for their continuing support of Centre 56. It is really appreciated and also thank the lady who donated children's clothes and the toy dragon. Pat is busy putting all the nursery hats in the children's sacks and is doing the selection boxes for the after-school children on Monday. The coffee morning ladies were delighted with their goodies for the year!*

*We would like to wish everyone best wishes for 2018 and again thank you for the continuing support. Hope to see you next year.*

## Lucky Dip



Members of SI Liverpool are pictured preparing bags of books and lucky dip gifts for sale at a regional meeting. Thanks to the generosity of regional members, we raised £107 for President Dorothy's charity, Sickle Cell Anaemia.

## September Charity Lunch at the Marina Bar and Grill. *Can you spot yourself?*



**President Dorothy writes:** The Charity lunch was coordinated by Ann Mercer and her team SI Liverpool .The event was organised to raise awareness of Sickle Cell and its effects on sufferers and their families. Our invited guests were the speaker Anya, Chair of the Sickle Cell Support group and Regional President Margaret Molyneux, her husband and family member. The presentation by Anya triggered many questions and networking from the attendees. The lunch was well supported by members of the club, their family and friends. Everyone gave generously towards the raffle. Anya’s talk was well received and she is looking forward to coming again. Anya and Margaret were thanked for attending this event and flowers were presented to them. We did not forget Margaret’s husband John -always there when needed. A gift was presented to him by President Elect, Dorcas Akeju.

## Federation Conference in Cardiff



**Elaine Stump writes:** As my first year as a Soroptimist came to a close, I joined the rest of the Great Britain and Ireland delegates and my Liverpool Club friends, Anne and Dorcas to see what the 83<sup>rd</sup> Federation Conference would bring and what we could take back to our Members for the next Conference to be held in 2018 in Liverpool. What was great -The highlights for me were the presentations from Mandy Hickson (former female pilot on frontline Tornado GR4 squadron) and Dame Katherine Grainger (Great Britain’s most decorated female Olympian – rowing). Good presentational skills and fascinating journeys to success are a great

recipe for motivation and excellent examples for us all to 'Step Up and Lead the Way', the 83<sup>rd</sup> Conference Mantra. We learned how other speakers from Plan International to Anti-slavery organisations and Wales Enforcement agencies carried out their work. Our younger voices were given an opportunity to be heard regarding enablement, education and empowerment for women and girls. Lastly the speaker Michael Kaufman, the co-founder of the White Ribbon Campaign, the largest effort in the world of men working to end violence against women gave us a welcome presentation regarding equality and diversity. The Conference opened and closed with musical events. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped to settle us all in to the Conference.

What could have been done better and what lessons could be learned for Liverpool's 2018 Conference? The canvas bag I was given on registering disappointingly contained an SIGB programme only. So when delegates arrive in Liverpool they should get a bagful of maps, brochures, leaflets, invitations, discounts – to see how Liverpool has progressed since the last Conference here. I very much missed the hospitality I was expecting, from a biscuit with my coffee to the New Conference Members' Reception. Reinstated? I hope so. Where was the Welsh Culture and Music? Would we imagine a Liverpool location without the Beatles? How do we catch A Ferry across the Mersey? I think delegates would enjoy all this Liverpool Hospitality and I'm not even from round here! To be fair, the 2018 Conference is not being organised by the Liverpool SI, or even the South Lancashire Region, but the North West England and the Isle of Man Region. However, in the words of SIGBI, can we help them to 'Step Up and Lead the Way', to an enjoyable time for all.

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*Don't forget to access the club's facebook and webpage*

*web page: <https://sigbi.org/liverpool/> (administered by Anne Grimes) & includes the club calendar*

*facebook page: [soroptimist international liverpool](#) (administered by Eileen McCue & Anne Grimes).*

*The next newsletter will be out in the summer.*