

Soroptimipool Times

April 2018

International Lunch December '17

On 8th December, President Dorothy hosted the club's annual international lunch for Human Rights Day, with all monies raised from the raffle going to International President Mariet Verhoef-Cohen's appeal for "Women, Water and Leadership". The lunch at Childwall Golf Club was an enjoyable occasion. President Dorothy's guests included the Lord Mayor of Liverpool Malcolm Kennedy and his wife Liliana, Regional President Margaret Davies and club presidents from Southport and Crosby, all of whom enthusiastically joined in a rousing singalong to the "Twelve Days of Christmas". President Dorothy used the occasion to thank several club members and her events team. The celebration, which included the solemn lighting of candles for SI clubs in countries around the world, was a reminder of our mission as Soroptimists to continue working for equal access to human rights, especially for women and girls.



Regional President Margaret's Lunch at Park Hotel

Regional President Margaret Davies hosted a delightful lunch at The Park Hotel, Charnock Richard on Saturday 27th January, for Presidents and other club officers of the South Lancashire Region, at which the guest speaker was our Federation President – Susan Biggs. Sue is a regular visitor to our region and as always, she spoke with great feeling and passion, but this time she asked our members to think hard about the future of how they would like to see SIGBI go forward. Suzie Widnall and Anne Grimes attended on behalf of President Dorothy and were certainly given food for thought, while enjoying meeting up with other officers from the region.



SI Liverpool celebrates "Fairtrade Fortnight"



Club members joined in the "Fairtrade Fortnight" celebrations at our Club meeting in February. We were invited to sample a variety of Fairtrade chocolates brought by one of our members. We couldn't make up our minds as to our favourite, so of course, we had to taste again! Thanks Marie for the chocolates! We could not resist them. Thanks also for raising awareness of Fairtrade!

Raise our Banner, Raise our Profile!!

To mark International Women's Day #PressforProgress 2018, one of our members took the club banner to display in Garston Library. This generated such interest we were requested to take the banner to Toxteth Library too. We were also invited to an event entitled 'Inspiring Entrepreneurs', attended by two club members. It was an informative day, one of the speakers being an inspirational woman who started her business 10 years ago and now sells her products worldwide including China and USA. A great way to share news about Soroptimism too!



91st Charter Lunch at Woolton Golf Club



The 91st Charter lunch was held at Woolton Golf Club in February on a crisp and sunny winter's day which highlighted the beautiful surroundings of the venue. The event was very well attended by members and their guests, including members from other local Soroptimist clubs of Southport, Crosby, St. Helens, Bootle, Widnes and Heswall. President Dorothy warmly welcomed the Lord and Lady Mayoress of Liverpool, Malcolm and Liliana Kennedy and Regional

President Margaret Davies. All enjoyed a delicious carvery meal, followed by entertainment from the lovely Sarah Chidlow who performed songs from the shows, with everyone happy to join in.



Big Bad Feminists celebrate International Women's Day!



On 8th March Sue, Katrina and Elaine took part in the Big Bad Feminist Quiz held at Frederik's Bar in Hope St, L1. Luckily for us, we were joined by three ardent feminists, Meg, Ben and Julian and together our "Wooden Spoon Team" came a respectable fifth overall. The whole room found the questions hard though and thankfully, great cocktails and pizza fuelled our brains to keep us going. One thing we did learn was that at the present rate of progress, women will not achieve global equality with men for another 200 years! Surely this is not acceptable -as Soroptimists, we need to step up our efforts!



Charity Supper



For International Women's Day, some lucky club members enjoyed a great evening, hosted by Maureen Walsh in her home. Names had to be drawn out of a hat, so popular was the event. Maureen cooked a delicious 'scouse' supper in aid of President Dorothy's charity, Sickle Cell anaemia. Each guest paid £10 to attend and all funds were for the charity. Even more was raised when Sharon Smith brought along home-made gifts for sale.

These included jewellery, greeting cards and Easter gifts which went down very well. Our 'butler' for the evening was Gerry, husband of Geraldine. He did a wonderful job making sure we were well fed and watered and even did the washing up! A great sociable evening! Thank you, Maureen!



New members at regional meeting

Eight club members represented SI Liverpool at the regional meeting at Leigh on Sat 10th March. It was great to have three of our newer members present, some for the first time. Mary, Debra and Elaine enjoyed renewing acquaintances and sharing ideas with members from other clubs in the region, friendships already forged at the new Members lunch in September and through the bowls competition too! This is what is at the heart of Soroptimism and it was an enjoyable day!



1918 Club Centenary Invitation



President Dorothy received an invitation from the 1918 Club to a lunch at the Adelphi Hotel on 12th March as part of the club's centenary celebrations. The 1918 Club was spearheaded by two women Eleanor Rathbone and Elizabeth Macadam who founded the club in order to give women the opportunity to meet socially and to engage in contemporary issues. Members of the 1918 Club included women who have made an impact in society and addressed equal rights for women, an aim very much at the heart of Soroptimism too. The 1918 Club meets fortnightly for a lunch followed by an invited speaker. Membership ranges between 30-40 in number. President Dorothy was made very welcome and club members were very interested to hear of the work of Soroptimists. The 1918 club may well be the oldest continuously existing women's club in Liverpool.

'Where Are All The Jobs?'

On 3rd April, Elaine attended the Liverpool Girl Geeks 'Meet Up', entitled 'Where Are All The Jobs?' We listened to a discussion between 5 suitably qualified local leaders from the technology industry, from Liverpool and Manchester, talking about new job opportunities. You heard it here first - Jo Morfee, a Liverpool 'Girl Geeks' director for the Department of Education, is helping to develop new educational qualifications. These are to be called - Technical levels (T levels), in acknowledgment that there is now a whole generation that has grown up around technology and it is about time that educational qualifications reflected this. Together with the fact that there is also an acute shortage of suitably skilled and qualified technical workers for the UK's developing technological businesses, we should be encouraging young girls and women to seize these learning opportunities.



Easter Eggs for Centre 56



Centre 56 is a local non-profit organisation based in Kirkdale, Liverpool. The centre provides childcare, information and support for women and children who have suffered from or are at risk of domestic abuse. SI Liverpool has supported the centre for over 30 years now. This year we asked what the centre would appreciate from the club and we were asked to buy Easter eggs for the 44 children who attend the centre. Thanks to the resourcefulness of one of our members who noticed a local supermarket was running an offer 'Buy 2, get 2 free', the eggs were bought and delivered to a very grateful 'Centre 56' well in advance of the Easter deadline. All at a bargain price, though the effects for the children is priceless! Pictured is our very own Easter Bunny Glenys with a very happy member of staff.

A Vintage Night in Southport

President Dorothy and Elaine attended the 'Vintage Fashion Show' held by SI Southport on 6th April. The show was promoted by 'Mary Jones Vintage & Glamour' with a 1950s theme. After a welcoming drink on arrival, guests enjoyed a dazzling display of fashion through the first decades of the 1900's, leading to a celebration of post war style and ingenuity that was the 1950s.

Guests then enjoyed scampi or chicken in a basket, a gourmet meal reminiscent of the era. Finally, they were able to indulge in one of a Soroptimist's favourite activities, 'shopping', with all proceeds going to Water Aid and Local Charities. This was an enjoyable and fun evening!



Obituary for Gertrude Allen



It was with sadness that we said our farewell to Trudie in February, after she passed away peacefully in hospital at the age of 97. She served a long career in teaching, most of which were spent as the headmistress of Alder Hey. She was a Soroptimist for over 40 years and one of our longest serving members. May she rest in peace.

A warm welcome for our club Ambassadors!

President Dorothy has given sterling service carrying out her ambassadorial roles on behalf of the club. She and her husband were guests of President Christine at SI Bootle's Annual lunch in March and were accompanied by President- Elect Dorcas and PAC officer Sue Woods. The venue, Hurston Hall in Scarsbrick, sits in the grounds of a beautiful Golf resort, with stunning views. President Dorothy was invited to respond to the Toast to the Guests. The lunch was well attended by club members, sister Soroptimists, families and friends.



President Dorothy also recently attended SI Warrington's Charter Lunch at Statham Lodge Country House hotel. President Liz and club members were delighted that she had agreed to respond to the Toast to the Guests. This is lovely venue, owned by a Warrington club member so the food and entertainment was faultless! It has been a privilege, says President Dorothy, to learn more about the activities of other clubs.

..... and as we say a huge **Thank you to President Dorothy** as she steps down from office, we will let her have the last word!

"My Presidential year has been both a rewarding and an enriching experience and I would like to thank all of you for your unflinching support through this period.

My belief in inclusivity and team work were key factors in making a club and I hope you all have felt that you have been a valued and integral part of both the decision making and service delivery processes.

I have attended many functions as your ambassador. I feel extremely proud and elated to hear our club being fondly referred to as the Mother Club and with how much respect our daughter clubs hold us. No doubt we are all proud of our club and will continue working to up hold its norms and values. Indeed, as the saying goes: 'Make new friends, but maintain the old, one is silver and the other is gold'. The year has gone rather quickly for me and there have been happy and sad times as we have lost two long standing and much cherished members of our club, Iris and Trudie. They will always be in our thoughts.

I am pleased that one of our members, Anne Grimes, has been elected as Regional Membership Officer. She is an exemplary and hard-working person, who continues to inspire new and younger members in the service of Soroptimism. In the past year we have been successful in creating teams who have organised coffee mornings and official functions. We hope that through team work, more members will be able to join in the activities of the club.

I am pleased to note that our membership has increased. On behalf of the club I would like once more to welcome all new members to the club and hope you will be able to avail yourselves of the facilities in the club. New membership is an important aspect of the club's survival.

My vision was that as President I would be accessible if and when required, and I hope that I was able to fulfil this promise. I am profoundly grateful for all your support for my named charity Sickle Cell Support Group, Liverpool. This is a local charity that has been struggling for funding, and your fund raising will help both children and their mothers to cope with this life-threatening inherited blood disorder.

Our thoughts and Good Wishes go to Eileen McCue our secretary who is recovering from her operation. We pray for her speedy recovery and safe return to our club. We must also acknowledge our partners, families and friends who are always there when we need them and are willing to contribute to the smooth running of the Club.

We still need to explore those hidden talents that will further strengthen our achievements for the club. We know that within our club we have talents and we hope members will feel empowered to step forward in order to volunteer and to share their skills improving the lives of women and girls.

Sue Woods will be leaving her position as our PAC Officer. We thank her for diligent work and the long service she has given to the club. Sue says she is having a well-deserved rest. I am also aware that other executive members will be stepping down. I want to thank them also for their unflinching effort in stepping up to take our club forward. We look forward to the new members who will join the new executive. We thank you all.

As I leave Presidential office, I leave a club that is vibrant with a strong Executive Team. I will continue to support our club in a different capacity. I have always based my beliefs on the 3C's- Communication, Commitment and Collaboration and I feel this links with The Vision, Mission, and Principles of Soroptimism.

I wish to personally thank Judith Harris who kept our club afloat by volunteering to take on the secretarial role even though she had her own role as Treasurer.

Finally to Dorcas, President Elect. We have known each other for many years. I thank you for your support and wish you all the best for your Presidential year.

Best Wishes to All.

Dorothy"



President Dorothy with our Friendship club President Christiane of SI Cologne June 2017

Dates for your Diary

May 8th– Executive Meeting 7pm

May 12th Regional Conference Ramada Hotel, Southport

May 23rd Club Meeting 7pm Sefton Park Hotel, 37 Aigburth Drive L17 4JE

June 9th Regional Council Meeting and Programme Action Leigh
(SIL HOSTING THE MEETING)

June 12th Executive Meeting 7pm

June 23rd Fund Raising-Table Sale Coffee morning-President and local charities –Bridge Chapel & Centre, Heath Road Liverpool L19 4XR

June 27th Club Meeting 7pm at Sefton Park Hotel

July 10th Executive Meeting 7pm

July 25th Club Meeting 7pm at Sefton Park Hotel

NO MEETING IN AUGUST

September 8th Regional Council Meeting and Programme Action Leigh

September 11th Executive Meeting 7pm

September 23rd– Fund Raising Charity Lunch for President's and other Charities- Liverpool Cricket Club Aigburth Road

September 26th Club Meeting 7pm at Sefton Park Hotel

October 9th Executive Meeting 7pm

October 24th Club Meeting 7pm at Sefton Park Hotel-

NB- EVENING BEFORE CONFERENCE

October 25th –27th SIGBI Conference at Echo Arena Liverpool