

# *Soroptimist Times*

January 2019

## 84<sup>th</sup> SIGBI Federation Conference 25-27<sup>th</sup> October 2018 Liverpool

What a terrific conference and one that will stay in our memories for years to come! It was such an honour for the club to play an important role in helping to make the conference such a success, not least President Dorcas who presented outgoing Federation President Sue Biggs with the Union Jack in the opening ceremony before reading the vision and mission. The city's Lord Mayor, Cllr Christine Banks welcomed conference of over 1000 delegates to the city, before the Brothers of Swing had everyone dancing in the aisles!



Friday brought a feast of excellent speakers. Emily Rose Yates gave an inspiring and humorous talk about the challenges faced by wheelchair users on public transport. Terry Waite reflected on his life while held as a hostage for over five years in Beirut. Dr Ann-Marie Wilson founded the "28 Too Many" anti-FGM organisation working in 28 countries across Africa. International President Mariet Verhoef-Cohen from SI Zwolle in the Netherlands gave an update on her President's Appeal "Women, Water and Leadership". She hopes Soroptimists worldwide will raise £350,000 for improved, sustainable, accessible and affordable water products across five continents. The afternoon session of the AGM, saw conference vote 'Empowering Girls from Nepal' as the next SIGBI project and after protracted discussions, an increase in membership fees of £2 p.a.



Saturday began with an interesting talk from Ellie Bird Lenawarungu, formerly a senior police officer in West Midlands, she now runs the Amuka Foundation (Swahili for 'rise-up') working with women and children displaced by war and natural disasters. We then 'set sail' with Sally Kettle, who rowed across the Atlantic with her mother! This partnership was not her first choice but Sally gave an hilarious account of how mother and daughter not only bonded under extreme physical duress, but also a poignant account of not wanting the journey to finish! Dr. Helen Pankhurst spoke about rights of women today and maintaining the legacy of the Suffragettes. The afternoon session began with Programme Action awards. Congratulations to SI Manchester for winning the Economic Empowerment award for 'Heal Malawi', which cascades the training of health visitors out into the community. SI San Fernando of Trinidad and Tobago won the best overall project for their campaign against single-use plastic. The afternoon was rounded off by a talk from Sir Ranulph Fiennes about his epic pole to pole expedition, the loss of several fingers and toes testimony to the hardship endured. At the closing ceremony, we welcomed new SIGBI President Sue Williams. Her focus is around mental health issues and her theme is 'Think On It'. She invested Sue Underwood from SI Manchester as our new regional President. Delegates said their last farewells after a quartet of trombonists, 'Slidin' About', sent them on their way!



Members of SI Liverpool volunteered as stewards on the information desk and their smiles and helpfulness was commented upon by many delegates! They wore their Suffragette rosettes with pride. Well done everyone!



SIGBI 85<sup>th</sup> Federation Conference "Think on it"

24-26<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Bournemouth International Centre

[www.sigbi.org/bournemouth2019](http://www.sigbi.org/bournemouth2019)

Accommodation reservation.01202 816147



## A warm welcome to our sisters from Cologne!

The club was delighted that four of our Soroptisisters (and one Soroptimister, Vieth) from our Friendship club, SI Cologne, were able to accept an invitation to attend conference in Liverpool. Joan, friendship link co-ordinator and David welcomed them with a meal at their home before bringing the guests to the opening ceremony. Elaine offered accommodation to the party, which was gratefully appreciated. Our sisters were able to meet up with the International President, Mariet being well known in their federation of SI Europe. On Friday evening, Friendship link co-ordinator Dorothy organised a lovely meal at Sefton Park Hotel, where we were able to relax and have time to talk together. On the final evening, Regional President Sue welcomed our guests to her champagne reception. An early start for the airport on Sunday morning meant we had to say a quick goodbye to Sylvia, Nora, Christiane and Ilse but we look forward to our next visit to Cologne!



## PROGRAMME ACTION



### Walk for freedom

In October, club members turned out to the city centre to join over a hundred people who were raising awareness amongst shoppers of the insidious presence of enslavement and trafficking that damages the lives of more people today than ever before. Marchers wore black, walked in single file and in silence to highlight their plight. We distributed leaflets and talked to shoppers who wanted to know more. Soroptimist advocacy in action!



### Love Your Liver!

In September, the British Liver Trust took a mobile unit to ten locations around England, to raise awareness of preventable liver disease. These 'high street health-checks' give members of the public an opportunity to find out about the causes of liver disease, and to find out if they are at risk of liver disease by taking a health screener. The British Liver Trust approached the club to ask for help with a public event in the city centre. Two members, Elaine and Suzie, pictured in white below, volunteered to assist the team. Their help was invaluable and the statistics show positive outcomes for those who were screened in Liverpool. Everyone is encouraged to take the Liver Trust's 10 min online survey at [www.britishlivertrust.org.uk/our-work/love-liver-health-screener/](http://www.britishlivertrust.org.uk/our-work/love-liver-health-screener/)





## £1,000 for Sickle Cell Support Unit

One final duty fell to Immediate Past President Dorothy at the club meeting in September but this one was a delight! Pictured is a member of the Sickle Cell support group accepting a cheque from the club for £1,000. This charity was IPP Dorothy's nominated charity for her presidential year, a charity very close to her heart and one which she had co-founded during her many years of service at the Liverpool Women's Hospital. We wish them continued success in their work with sufferers of sickle cell anaemia and their families.



## Coffee Morning raises over £500



In October, a very successful and enjoyable coffee morning at bridge Chapel raised over £500 for Amadudu and our nominated charities. Additional stalls included pre-loved handbags and scarves as well as the regular tombola, bric-a-brac and raffle. As ever, the cake and bread stalls attracted a lot of custom. The morning also allowed time to catch up with friends over a good cup of coffee. We were delighted the Lord Mayor and her granddaughter joined us for a bit of 'time-out'!

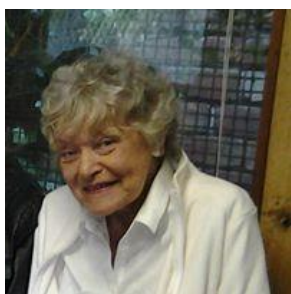


## Orange Day November 2018

The United Nations has designated the 25<sup>th</sup> day of every month as 'Orange Day-Say NO to Violence Against Women and Girls'. The club chose the November meeting to mark our support for this important stand for the rights of women around the world.



## Maureen Edwards RIP



It was with enormous sadness and shock that we heard of the death of a much-loved member Maureen who died suddenly on 24th November 2018, aged 81. A Soroptimist for over forty years, Maureen was president of SI. Garston and Speke in 1980 and Minuting Secretary for many years. In 2003, Garston and Speke closed and Maureen, together with fourteen other members, transferred to SI. Liverpool. For many years, she worked as an admin manager at Broadgreen Hospital and had an avid interest in a wide variety of sport, especially tennis. She always took a lively interest in Soroptimism, attending many meetings and events, most recently the October coffee morning. Maureen, as pictured, was a successful and enthusiastic member of the Club's Bowling team for the S.Lancashire region. She will be very much missed! RIP Maureen

## Santa's Little Helpers!

Christmas 2018 was made just a little bit better for children and families across the city, thanks to the generosity of club members. Annabel James sends her thanks to members for the toys donated to her charitable trust. The Trust was able to distribute boxes of toys to 142 children in need. The club has supported her work for several years now and is very much appreciated. Gifts were also taken by President Dorcas and Sue Woods to the six families who are cared for by Amadudu. Club members who went to the regional meeting in November raised over £120 for our charities from regional Soroptimists, by selling small gifts and books wrapped as Christmas stocking fillers. Well done!



## "Lest We Forget!"

In memory of all those men and women who have died in conflict and in honour of SI Liverpool's long association with poppy Day Appeal, President Dorcas laid a wreath on behalf of SI Liverpool at the Remembrance Sunday service at St. George's Hall in November. The ceremony is always a moving occasion and it is an honour to acknowledge our gratitude for those who have given their life in service.





## Happy 69th Birthday SI Heswall



On 20<sup>th</sup> October, SI Liverpool's granddaughter club, SI Heswall, celebrated their 69<sup>th</sup> Charter Dinner at Prenton Golf club. The evening was especially important as President Maureen Sayer was, until her retirement in 2015, a member of SI Liverpool. Maureen had for many years, worked for the NHS information services and frequently delivered important and informative sessions to the club on issues around women's health. Pictured are Dorothy, President Dorcas, Debra, Anne, President- Elect Mary and Ann.

## Support for Young Carers

On 15<sup>th</sup> October 2018, members Debra, Elaine and Anne attended a successful fundraiser hosted by SI St. Helens on behalf of Young Carers. The coffee morning event raised over £1,000 to support the lives of young carers in the area. The event was held at Greenacres Wood near Rainford. The site is a beautiful woodland burial ground and we finished the morning with a gentle stroll through the trees.



## "Allo, Allo! Iz zat ze Fallen Madonnas.....?"



SI Crosby transformed a village hall into M. Rene's café and transported us back to the 1940's. As stranded English tourists, we were 'captivated' by Madame Edith's singing, accompanied on the piano by Madame Plinkyplonk. Herr Flick and Police Officer Crabtree –"Good Moaning!" interrupted the concert on numerous occasions, with great hilarity. However, the Resistance would not assist us

home until we had navigated our way through several rounds of quiz questions. The 'Fallen Madonnas', aka. Mary, Sue, Anne and Danny won the quiz for the honour of SI Liverpool! A really enjoyable evening! Thank you SI Crosby!



## Welcome to new member Raka!

President Dorcas gave a warm welcome when she enrolled our latest member, Raka Ghaderi at our November club meeting. Raka has already attended conference, another club's meeting and a regional meeting. She brings a wealth of experience to Soroptimism from her engineering and teaching background. It was especially good to have Raka's daughters come to the meeting and participate with such a positive contribution to our PA discussions. We wish Raka many happy years of service and friendship!



## From Beechenhurst to Balmain .....



Members met in November at Sudley House for a private talk about the stunning 1950s fashion exhibition which tells the story of a local-born woman's extraordinary life in the spotlight. *Model Image: fashion and photos from the 1950s*, examines the life of one of the top British models of the era, June Duncan (1924-2014), while capturing the elegance and glamour of the period. June was born in the Liverpool suburb of Mossley Hill in 1924 and educated at

Beechenhurst, a private school in Mossley Hill. June's love of acting began at an early age but by 1948 she had started modelling and went on to model clothes for all the major couture houses in London and Paris. June's modelling career was an exhilarating whirl of fashion shoots, front covers and haute couture. The exhibition encapsulates her rise from child actor to cover girl. Thanks, Glenys, for organising such a fascinating afternoon!.

Club members recreate their cat-walk look!





## International Lunch, Childwall Golf Club -December 2018



"Women, Water and Leadership" is the theme of International President Mariet Verhoef-Cohen. President Dorcas hosted an international lunch with monies from the raffle, over £120, going to support this project. The afternoon began with a candle-lighting ceremony to celebrate International Human Rights Day. After an enjoyable meal, guests were entertained in festive fashion by the fabulous "The Dicky-Tickers" and their yukeleles. All enjoyed the sing-a-long! Pictured are President Dorcas and her husband Claudius with guests the Lord Mayor of

Liverpool Cllr.Christine Banks; Geraldine and Gerry Poole, President Elect Mary Andrews and President Elect of SI Widnes, Eleanor King.




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## Dates for your diary

**February 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday -92nd Charter Lunch** Woolton Golf Club 12 for 12.30 pm

**February 27<sup>th</sup> Club meeting** 7pm Sefton Park Hotel

**March 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional meeting, Leigh** 9.30 am

**March 12<sup>th</sup> Executive Meeting** 7pm

**March 23<sup>rd</sup> Regional Study day** Southport 10am-2.30pm

**March 27<sup>th</sup> Club meeting** 7pm

**April 9<sup>th</sup> Executive meeting** at 7pm

**April 24<sup>th</sup> Club meeting** 6.30/Refreshment AGM Change of Insignia