



Soroptimist Times

September 2018

Installation of PRESIDENT DORCAS AKEJU O.B.E April 2018



I feel honoured to be the President of SI Liverpool in our 92nd year. Our club has a wide age range of members with different skills and abilities. The members work together to achieve the Soroptimist vision through our various Programme Action activities and events.

I joined the club in 2013 because I like the vision and mission of Soroptimism and wanted to continue my passion as a midwife to support girls and women. As a midwife, I was involved with women who needed support in relation to domestic violence and female genital mutilation. For my charity this year, I have chosen Amadudu, a refuge centre for women who are victims of domestic violence, female genital mutilation, forced marriage and honour killing. The building has six flats where women can stay for a maximum of a year and they are supported as much as possible by the staff.

My motto for this year is "Together we can" and I know we can continue to work together to achieve our objectives for the year either through Programme Action activities and our fund-raising events. We can plan and achieve together. I hope all the members will continue to help shape our club and continue to share our vision and mission with the wider members of the public.

.....and the evening was celebrated with a buffet enjoyed by Dorcas's guests and club members



President Dorcas installs Mary as President Elect

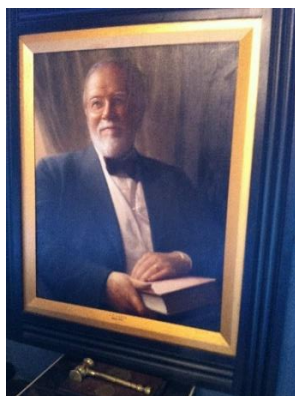


President Dorcas completed her appointment of her executive for her year when she welcomed Mary Andrews as her President Elect. We wish them both a successful year!

The Artists' Club

The last 'Gentlemen Only' club in Liverpool opened its doors to give an hospitable welcome to Soroptimists from SI Crosby, Liverpool and Southport on 10th May. The club, in Eberle Street, Liverpool has over 400 members, men only! It was founded in 1877 and has occupied premises in the centre of Liverpool since 1889.

It remains true to its original purpose which is to provide an environment where the artist community can associate with the business and professional community of the City in convivial circumstances. The Club is renowned for its friendliness and warm informality.



A unique feature of the Club is its collection of portraits of its Presidents. Every President since 1889 has had his portrait painted in oils by an artist member. The full collection is hung in the Club. The Club mounts about six art exhibitions every year. These feature the work of Artist members or artists working in the northwest. Helen of SI Crosby, whose husband is the current President, kindly arranged the invitation for Soroptimists to enjoy the occasion. We were welcomed with a Liverpool Gin, a work of art! The three-course meal was concluded with the club's signature dessert, an Eccles cake served with cheese!



Regional Conference at the Ramada Hotel, Southport- 12th May 18

Regional President Margaret Davies invited all regional members to a very successful conference in Southport. Her theme was "Reach Out!". Attended by over a hundred and thirty members from clubs across South Lancashire, North West England and the Isle of Man, delegates were uplifted by talks which ranged on a variety of topics. Hannah Flint ([Stop the Traffik](#)) encouraged Soroptimists to continue educating the public about modern day slavery. Patricia Gatherum, Federation Ambassador for the [Meru Garden Project](#), spoke entertainingly about her recent visit to the project in Kenya and the difference it is making to the lives of women there. Ben Mott gave a fascinating insight into caring for people with dementia. Concluding the afternoon's programme, Sue Williams (Federation President Elect) spoke about her visit to Nepal, and the work being carried out by the members of SI Kathmandu. In addition, she flagged up her ongoing interest in mental health support, and the importance of looking after ourselves as well as others. The afternoon finished with an impromptu rendition by our club members of the Four Tops singing "Reach out, I'll be there!". Eat your heart out Motown!!



Fundraiser at Tesco's, Allerton Road- "Every Little Helps!"

Thanks to Tesco's on Allerton Road and club member Ann Mercer, we were invited to fundraise for our Presidents charity, Amadudu, one of the first ever refuges for women from black and ethnic minority communities. Customers generously gave over £200 in a few hours. We also used the occasion to advertise our work as Soroptimists and generated a lot of interest!



"Walk A Memorable Mile"- The Regional Rose Bowl Challenge



Sixteen club members accepted Regional President Margaret's challenge to 'Walk a Memorable Mile', whilst raising awareness of our work as Soroptimists. We walked from the Everyman Theatre to the Playhouse Theatre, where our first President, Maud Carpenter was manager for many years. We carried pictures of famous Liverpool women who had also 'walked a mile' for others and whose work is close to the heart of Soroptimists. We later enjoyed a cup of coffee together and it turned out to be an enjoyable chance to socialise together too!



Coffee morning fundraiser- A piece of cake!

On 23rd June, club members organised a very successful coffee morning fundraiser at The Bridge Chapel. Stalls included our usual cake table, bric-a-brac, bottle tombola and raffle. This time, we also added two new stalls which went down very well- that of pre-loved bags and a bread stall. The coffee morning was well attended and raised over £500 for our charities



Happy Birthday Centre 56!

When does 56 equal 45? When it's your birthday! Several members were invited by Centre 56 to share their recent birthday celebrations as a thanks to the club for their support over many years.

Pat Roberts, Nursery and After-school Manager at Centre 56, says: "Celebrating our 45th anniversary was brilliant. We had so much fun, and it was great to see the children and families have a great time too. We celebrated with lots of fun activities and games for the children including paint splatting and face painting, a raffle, DJ, and lots of food and cake. We would like to thank everyone who came and celebrated with us, making the day a really special occasion".



Speaker Night- WHISC



At our club meeting in July, we welcomed Caroline Wilcox who gave a presentation about WHISC (Women's Health Information and Support Centre in Bold Street). The Centre's work is mostly focussed upon women's mental health, and 50 volunteers are already working there. Members were invited to visit the Centre and to consider volunteering for one of the many roles needed. A cheque for £300 towards the work WHISC's was presented to Caroline, which will help to support three women who have lost their babies.

Bowls League Report from our captain Sharon

"We have had another great year! Well played everyone.

Special mention goes to three of 3 of our new bowlers Ann Carroll, Debra Curtis and Elaine Stump who qualified for the finals along with Mary Gregson, Norah Rawsthorne and Margaret Bragg.

Well done to Margaret who made it through to the semi finals. Her opponent went on to win the championship. Thank you to Anne Pagendam and Calderfield Club for use of the green and President Dorcas for being our team photographer. Now we can rest and look forward to next season! The overall club league winners were SI Leigh. Many congratulations to them!

Subject to the green being available practice will start again in April 2019.

The pre-season social will take place at Southport Club at 7pm on 4 April 2019 costs £7-50.

All are welcome so if anyone would like to attend the social and or play please let me know. "



Charity Lunch at Liverpool Cricket Club

Eighty guests and club members, including the Lord Mayor of Liverpool Cllr. Christine Banks, enjoyed a tasty two course lunch followed by coffee at Liverpool Cricket Club on Sunday 23rd September. Kerry Nugent, guest speaker on behalf of Amadudu, gave an insight into the work of the centre which supports up to six families from Black and Ethnic minority backgrounds, to find a temporary safe haven from domestic violence. A raffle completed the afternoon's events but not before guests had plenty of time to chat with friends and guests from other clubs.



Pictured left are President Dorcas's special guests



A warm welcome back to our club!



President Dorcas gave a warm welcome to our latest new member Hedy Freedman, who was enrolled at our meeting in July. Hedy is delighted to return to the club and we wish her many happy years ahead as a Soroptimist!

...and the final word to President Dorcas!

"The year has flown by since my taking on the role of the President. It has been a very busy five months from preparing and chairing the Executive and Club meetings to attending Club events. The June Coffee morning and table sale was very successful and substantial amount was raised. A big thanks to the Events committee and all the club members for a successful day.

From the beginning of my presidency, I had made a decision to attend the entire "Sisters" Club events and I thank God for giving me the strength to do so. All the clubs have given me a warm welcome and gifts. The events give me the opportunity to meet other club members and learn about their work within their local areas, and it also creates time to network. There is always plenty of food to eat and I often wonder how much weight I will put on but I always enjoy myself. Thanks to all members for their support by accompanying me to the events.



In July I went to Belfast to attend the UK PAC Board meeting and the conference. It was a very informative and thought-provoking conference. Thanks to everyone who came to support our fund-raising lunch on the 23rd of September. A heartfelt appreciation to all club members for continuous support and encouragement. GOD BLESS YOU ALL. "

Dates for Your Diary

October 8th Executive Meeting 7pm at Geraldine Poole's home

October 24th Club Meeting 7pm at Sefton Park Hotel- NB- EVENING BEFORE CONFERENCE

October 25th –27th SIGBI Conference at Echo Arena

November 11th- Remembrance Day-St George's Hall

November 13th Executive Meeting 7pm

November 17th (Saturday) Fund Raising-Table sale Coffee Morning Bridge Chapel Centre, Heath Road L19 4XR

November 24th Regional Council and Programme Action Meeting Leigh-Table Sale

November 28th Club Meeting 7pm Sefton Park Hotel

December 9th- International Lunch –Childwall Golf Club 12 for 12.30 pm

January 8th Executive Meeting 7pm

January 23rd Club Meeting 7pm Sefton Park Hotel. 37 Aigburth Drive Liverpool L17 4JE