



# *Soroptimist*

# *Times*

September 2019

## **Time to Talk international!**

Our Time to Talk in June saw the welcome addition of several visitors to SI Liverpool from abroad. Pictured with Yvonne and Judith is Dr. Gratiana Steinkamp, a doctor who is a specialist in Cystic Fibrosis, visiting Liverpool with her husband for a medical conference. Gratiana is a Soroptimist from SI Schwerin in the Magdebourg region near Hamburg. Gratiana enjoyed a very brief tour of the city before saying goodbye at the Anglican Cathedral.



Also joining us for coffee was President Yvette Lee of SI Bombay Chumbai and her mother Sandra. President Mary very kindly offered them hospitality at her home. Yvette is an avid Beatles fan, hence her desire to make a quick detour to Liverpool and President Mary very kindly took them on a Beatles tour before they headed back to London. A number of executive members joined Yvette and Sandra for a meal the previous evening at Spire.

This time, PA officer Elaine gave us a fun quiz for World Environment Day which prompted a great discussion amongst guests and members about the issues around global warming and what practical steps each of us could take to reduce our impact on earth's resources. The morning finished with an exchange of gifts and we were especially grateful to Gratiana for her club's gift to our charities. Julieann Laufer, a Soroptimist from California, met Joan and Anne on a flying visit, a week later but we warmly welcomed yet another Beatles fan!



## Tesco's Collection for WHISC

On 15<sup>th</sup> May, several club members collected donations from shoppers at Tesco's on Allerton Road, in aid of President Mary's charity, WHISC (Womens Health Information and Support Centre)



Over a hundred pounds was raised and we were also able to publicise the work of the club, from which at least one member of the public came to a meeting with a view to joining! Thank you Tescos for all your support on the day!

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## Coffee Morning at Bridge Chapel

On 22<sup>nd</sup> June, the events committee organised a very successful Coffee Morning at the Bridge Chapel. Stalls included a Tombola, cakes, bread, bric-a-brac, handbags and scarves and also a raffle. Raising nearly £500 was the 'icing on the cake'! Everyone enjoyed having time to sit and chat as well as tasting delicious cakes. Well done Ann and team!





## The RED BOX project delivered!

The club Programme action group working on Healthcare and Food Security, were delighted to complete their project, aimed at providing local schools with a RED BOX filled with free products, knickers, toiletries etc aimed at relieving period poverty. Schools were approached from different sectors of education and we were able to supply two primary schools, two secondary schools and a specialist school with fully stocked boxes. The idea of the box is that pupils can have free access, which avoids embarrassment or days lost from education because of poverty. The schools were absolutely delighted to receive them! Pictured are some of the club members filling the boxes, which Debra distributed to happy staff. From January 2020, the government have agreed to continue to supply schools with free products, following strong campaigning around the country



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## Afternoon Tea at the Albert Dock

On a beautiful afternoon on 26<sup>th</sup> June, club members boarded the canal boat "The Floating Grace" at Salthouse Dock and were treated to almost three hours of food, relaxation and education. The boat tour began around the Albert Dock, before heading through the southern docks of Kings Dock, Queens Dock and into Brunswick Dock before turning back. At such a leisurely pace, our guide and captain, Peter gave a very entertaining and informative talk about the docks and their features while we enjoyed afternoon tea, with unlimited cuppas! It was great value for money and certainly we will be back! Thanks Glenys!



### **President Mary at the Town Hall**



Recently, President Mary was a guest at Liverpool Town Hall, where she had accepted an invitation to meet the new Lord Mayor, Cllr Anna Rothery, who has been councillor for Princes Park ward since 2006. The Lord Mayor was invited to become an Honorary Soroptimist and accepted our invitation to our international lunch in December. We were delighted to hear that Amadudu, our President's charity last year, is also one of four charities of the Lord Mayor too! We wish Cllr Rothery a wonderful year in office!

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### **Regional Bowls competition attracts two rising stars!**

This year's regional bowls competition was as enjoyable a season as ever and two club members are rising stars! Hedy and Joan accepted an invitation from Bowls captain Sharon to join the team and to everyone's delight, they took to the game so well, they both played close games against other clubs in the region, one running out a winner! Sharon was very pleased as the team now have strength in numbers and this is very promising for next season. SI Liverpool finished third in the league, behind SI Crosby and SI Leigh. Congratulations to SI Crosby who took the trophy, in spite of being beaten by Liverpool and also to Sandy Taylor who won the individual cup at a wild and windy competition at Leigh in September. Thanks once again to Calderfield club for allowing us to use their facilities. There is an open invitation for all club members to come along to friendly coaching and practice nights on a Monday evening, learn how to score and join in with sharing tasty buffets! Roll on next April! Pictured below: a relaxing buffet after competition against SI Leigh; Club finalists at a very stormy Pennington Park, Leigh ! Well done everyone!



Special congratulations to Mary for reaching the quarter finals of the individual competition!



## Our daughter club is 75!

Congratulations to SI Widnes who celebrated their 75<sup>th</sup> Charter lunch at the Everglades in July. President Mary and Anne attended the 1940's themed lunch and both had a challenge to find appropriate dress. Over fifty guests enjoyed an excellent meal, followed by entertainment from a singer who focused on songs from the 40's. President Eleanor led the celebrations and thanked all her guests for entering into the spirit of the day.



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## Donations gratefully received by Memory Singers and Amadudu



Two of the club's nominated charities for the previous year were delighted to send representatives to our meeting in June and accept cheques from President Mary and Past President Dorcas on behalf of their charity. Our two nominated charities were the Memory Singers, the Red Box Project and the President's Charity was Amadudu who work with refugee families from ethnic backgrounds. Here is Dorcas presenting Kelly from Amadudu with a cheque for £1600.

During the meeting, Jill and Cathy from the Memory Singers gave a very interesting talk about their work with people who suffer with dementia. Music is therapeutic for people who aren't talking or even moving and memories of songs are often some of the strongest memories. The group meet twice a month and sing for about an hour and after tea and coffee, sing again! About thirty or forty members attend, many of whom are also carers and family. The group meet at St. Bede's, Hartington Road twice a month. The talk ended in a community 'singalong' with club members and was good fun. Jill and Cathy were very appreciative of the cheque for £300 which will help to reduce costs of photocopying music and also help to provide refreshments.

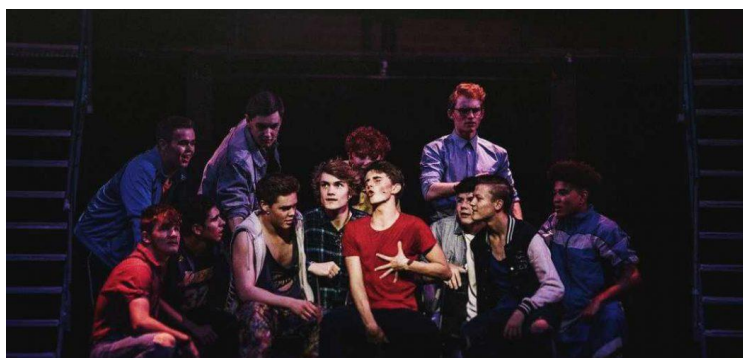
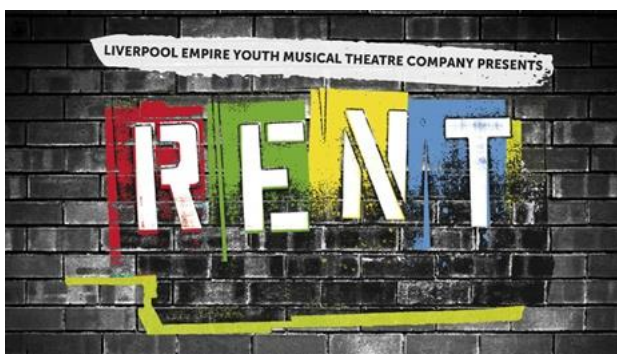


President Mary with Jill and Cathy from the Memory Singers




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### **"RENT"- A great night out at the Empire Theatre!**



Several club members headed to the Empire in July to see the Liverpool Empire Youth Theatre Company perform the Broadway multi award winning musical "Rent". This landmark show tells the story of a group of impoverished young artists struggling to survive in New York City's East Village. The story is inspired by Puccini's classic opera La Boheme. Yet again, Carol's son Jamil put in another mesmerizing performance in the lead role. We wish him every success as he embarks on a new stage in his career at the Guildford School of Acting.

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### **Welcome to Rosemary!**



On behalf of President Mary, President Elect Anne warmly welcomed new member Rosemary to the club at the meeting in July. Rosemary who is a former school teacher, happily discovered that she knew some club members already! One member played hockey with her and another was a near neighbour!

Rosemary annually holds a successful Macmillan Coffee morning and she welcomed several members to her home in September. We wish Rosemary many happy years of service and friendship in Soroptimism!



## "Think On It!"

Federation President Sue Williams' call to consider our own mental health and the well being of others was summed up in the phrase Think On It! Since that call at the federation conference in Liverpool last October, clubs have been exploring ways of taking up the challenge. For SI Liverpool, it has manifested itself in the monthly coffee mornings. To mark Mental Health and Wellbeing day in May, club members wore green for the meeting



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## DATES FOR THE DIARY

Oct 8<sup>th</sup> **Executive Meeting** 7.00 pm

Oct 10<sup>th</sup> **Quiz Night** 7.30pm Mossley Hill Athletics Club

Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> **Club Meeting** 7pm at Sefton Park Hotel

October 24<sup>th</sup> –26<sup>th</sup> **SIGBI Conference at Bournemouth**

Nov 7<sup>th</sup> **"Time to Talk"** 11am Aigburth Carvery

Nov 12<sup>th</sup> **Executive Meeting** 7.00 pm

Nov 27<sup>th</sup> **Club Meeting** 7pm at Sefton Park Hotel

Dec 5<sup>th</sup> **"Time to Talk"** 11am Aigburth Carvery

December 8<sup>th</sup>- **International Lunch** – Hallmark Hotel, Sefton Park

2020:

Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> **"Time to Talk"** 11am Aigburth Carvery

Jan 14<sup>th</sup> **Executive Meeting** 7.00 pm

Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> **Club Meeting** 7pm at Sefton Park Hotel