

Welcome to our April 2022 newsletter, we are finally getting in to summer which means warmer weather and longer days which also means we will be saying goodbye to our current president and welcoming a new one.



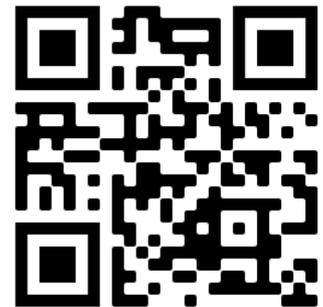
St Patricks Day Quiz “Pardon the Expression!”

Nine teams recently enjoyed a quiz night at Mossley Hill Athletics Club on 17th March. The quiz had been prepared by club member Anne while on holiday in Melbourne and had a bit of an Australian theme running through it. She delivered the quiz in spite of jet lag, having returned home 24 hours earlier! However the whole evening went well , with a lovely buffet and a raffle having been prepared by the events team . The evening raised nearly £400. Thanks to all those members and friends who supported it.

QR Code

For those who scan QR codes with the camera’s on their smartphones you will be please to know that we now have our own QR which takes people to our SI Liverpool webpage. This means people don’t need to spend a lot of time trying to find us on the SIGBI website. QR codes are used all over the world to get information quickly! When you hold your camera up to the QR code, (don’t take a photo, just hold the camera on the QR code, it will then bring up a link, click that link and you will be on SI liverpool webpage.

QR = Quick Response!



Ukraine Packing Donations

Layla and Sue visited The Catholic Archdiocese of Liverpool and spoke to volunteers and staff who have dedicated their time and efforts to organising and distributing donations to Ukraine to support those fleeing the country.

The Catholic Archdiocese of Liverpool received an influx of donations and willing volunteers eager to sacrifice their time to help.

The centre has filled vans and a lorry of donations, from food, toiletries, sleeping bags, baby clothes and other essentials to support refugees on the borders of Poland and in Ukraine. The first van load has already arrived.

Among the stacks of boxes and bags of toothbrushes, baby food and sanitary products that filled the centre, Sue and Layla managed to pack, label and sort donations. They packed over 10 boxes in just under 4 hours. Tiring but very rewarding!



Five Children and Families Trust, Speke

The Easter Bunny is back!

One of the clubs' three programme action groups has once again played the Easter Bunny to children in the Speke area who are supported by the Five Children and Families Trust. Easter eggs were collected, packed and delivered in time for Easter. Rosemary is pictured packing eggs and Mary as she delivered them to the centre. The staff were absolutely delighted with the ongoing support from the club for their work with disadvantaged families.



Hope Centre, Sefton Park

The group were also able to deliver three large bags of toiletries to the Hope Centre near Sefton Park, to support addicts who have gone in to rehab. Lynne is pictured delivering the bags to the centre.



95th Charter Celebration Lunch

We had a very successful Charter Lunch, at The Old Stables in Allerton Manor which was greatly attended by our own club and other local clubs in the region. We had a delicious meal including a fabulous cake, and our entertainment was provided by Eamonn O'Neal from the Dianne Oxberry Trust. The COO of the Dianne Oxberry Trust also attended and our own Dorcas even gave a talk about her role as Regional President.





International Women's Day

International Womens Day - 8th March #BreakTheBias

For international Womens Day, we all wore purple for the club meeting and took group photos for the new posters that will be going out around the city. Annette also asked people to send her their achievements from their life and she would collate them all and create a presentation - see presentation attached on email.



Congratulations to Hannah and Darryn!

On a beautiful day last week, club member Eileen and guests enjoyed a wonderful celebration of her daughter Hannah's marriage to Darryn Buller. The wedding celebrations had to be delayed until Darryn's family could come over from South Africa but the delay made the celebrations worth all the wait! Pictured is the happy couple and a lovely photo of Eileen with Hannah.

We wish the couple every happiness for the future!



2022 Dates for your Diary:

JUNE

18th - Regional Programme Action Mtg (am) Council Mtg (pm) at Leigh Harriers

OCTOBER

27th - 29th - SIGBI –Belfast Conference

President Debra's Closing Address

If you will forgive me I would like to compare my year to a football match – definitely a game of two halves. When you granted me the honour, as we approached our 95th year, of becoming your President last April we were in a lockdown situation with uncertainty as to if or when we could return to a more normal situation. All meetings were on Zoom including our change of insignia. Yet here we stand at the end of the second half able to physically come together. This is only possible of course thanks to the brilliant work of scientists developing a vaccine.

The “match” itself has definitely been predominately full of highs. We have welcomed new members to our club, who I am sure will contribute so much to the work and friendship over the coming years. Sadly the low point in our club year was the loss of Geraldine. We were all greatly saddened by her death, Geraldine had enriched our club for over 30 years giving service and offering friendship and encouragement to all.

With a degree of hesitancy we started to plan for face to face events uncertain as to whether we could go ahead or have to cancel either because people were too anxious to attend or because further lockdowns or restrictions were in place. Again with some trepidation we resumed in person club meetings with a twist, thanks to technology these became hybrid events.

Our raison d'être is Programme Action and this has continued to thrive guided throughout by Sue. This has taken many forms from the collection of items for donation to organisations such as refuges, refugees, foodbanks, rehabilitation units and children centres. Advocacy has taken place through the signing of petitions, the raising of key issues both within our club be this during Programme action meetings or via the speakers on topics such as ovarian cancer or the Red Cross, and thanks to Annette through our increased use of social media. Physically assisting, for example sorting and packing items for the Ukraine Crisis. Monetary donations have also been made by the club to the Ukraine Crisis, replacing trees in Princes Park and others.

One project I would like to highlight is the Book Library that the EEE group have established, Marie has taken the lead supported by Margaret on this and the importance within the community of book distribution to children and families where a book is an unaffordable luxury cannot be overstated.

The support from all club members, their friends and families in supporting fund raising events for my chosen charity The Dianne Oxberry Trust has been overwhelming. We have raised over £6000; Carol and Sharon have been notably supportive.

Friendship and support for each other has continued as ever. We have enjoyed sociable fund raising events, Time To Talk and thanks to Glenys sociable theatre trips and a trip to the Arboretum. Many hours also are spent on the phone as well as catching up over a coffee. All so important, and never to be taken for granted.

The honour of representing our club laying a wreath at the Cenotaph and attending the Remembrance Service at the cathedral will stay with me always. A different representation took place at the town Hall taking tea with the Mayor as well as attending the SIGBI Centenary Lunch at the House of Lords with Mary Smith and Hedy.

The achievements of a club cannot happen if the team do not work together, each member contributing to the overall result in whatever way they are able. So thank you to each and every one of you. I would like to further thank my executive and the events team who have supported and encouraged me throughout the year. I know you will all offer the same encouragement and support to Lynne in her Presidential year.

When I spoke last April I talked about kindness and how small acts can make such a difference, at the Charter Lunch I again spoke about being kind to ourselves as well as to others. As we are experiencing such uncertainty in the world through conflict and financial concerns let us remember that being kind to ourselves and others does not cost anything but the positive impact it can have is priceless.

So this game of two halves comes to an end – with no extra time needed as SI Liverpool were definitely the winners.

