

SI Cologne Visit - 35 Years of Friendship

Club members shared a wonderful weekend at the end of September with seven Soroptimists from SI Cologne and their Soroptimisters! On Saturday, everyone had the opportunity to visit Quarry Bank Mill and enjoy the tour of the Apprentice House, the Mill and the Mill owners house as well as sampling Cheshire cheese on the coach. Saturday evening finished the day with Dinner at Delifonseca and an opportunity to share stories and cement new friendships. On Sunday morning, the visitors could spend the morning at the Dock or visit Alder Hey hospital to see the Chelsea garden and hear about President Lynne's charity, the neonatal unit to be built at Alder Hey. The weekend finished at Strawberry Field with lunch before goodbyes were exchanged and the promise of a return trip to Cologne in 2024!



Charity Fundraiser

This fundraiser in aid of Alder Hey's neonatal unit, President Lynne's charity this year, A lovely meal provided by the the Liverpool Aigburth Hotel and a talk from Alder Hey about the plans for the new Neo-natal wing as well as a new centre for children mental health and well-being, rounded off an enjoyable social afternoon.



Time to Talk

One of our Time to Talk get together was hosted by President Lynne at her home. Donations were received from the attendees for The Alder Hey Neonatal Appeal. Our December Time to Talk was a visit to the Boodle & Dunthorne Exhibition at the Lady Lever gallery in Port Sunlight.



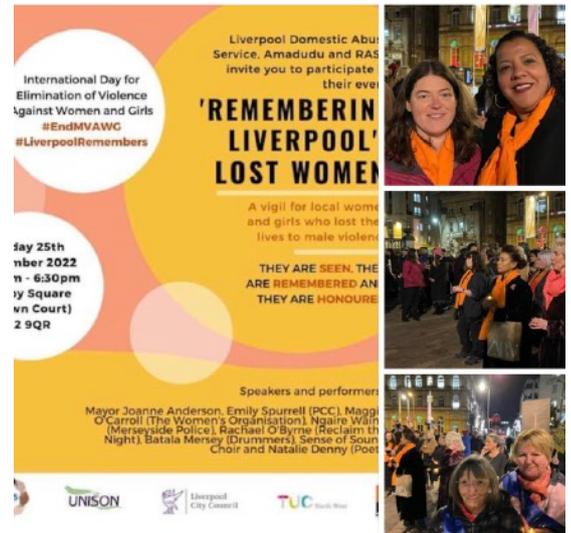
Remembrance Day

IPP Debra laid a wreath on behalf of President Lynne at the Cenotaph in memory of Armistice Day.



Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls 16 Days of Action

Some of our members attended a one hour candlelit vigil 'Remembering Liverpools Lost Women'. A poignant moment on the eve of the one year anniversary of the murder of Ava White, aged 12, only yards away from where we stood. Also remembered were all the women killed in the region since 2015. Excellent speeches from amongst others, Chief. Sup Ngairé Wine the VAWG lead for Merseyside Police, Mayor Joanne Anderson and Police Commissioner Emily Spurrell.



Human Rights Day

11th December, it may have been cold outside, but our celebration to mark International Human Rights Day, with our candle-lighting ceremony for Soroptimists around the world, brought the warmth of friendship to the room!



Festive Sale

The festive table sale at All Hallows Church was a great success with lots of delicious cakes to buy, knitted goods, tombola and delicious soup and bread. Thanks to all those who helped on the day and those who attended and brought friends and family.



Alder Hey Christmas Lights

President Lynne was invited to attend the switch on of the Christmas Lights at Alder Hey. The lights were switched on by a little girl aged about 4 who had been brought from Ukraine because of the conflict there to continue her essential treatment at Alder Hey. Although as we know the real super heroes are the staff at Alder Hey President Lynne encountered a different super hero.



2023 Dates for your Diary:

FEBRUARY

26th - Charter Lunch

MARCH

8th - International Womens Day

16th - Charity Quiz Night

APRIL

26th - AGM Change of Insignia



Health and Food Security PAC Group

Our group hosted the First Aid Training session, the supplies for the Women's Hospital and the gifts for children to their parents at the Five Child and Family Trust in Speke. We delivered our donations of Care Boxes for the Womens Hospital which support women who are admitted in emergency situations or transferred to other areas. Donations included some knitted cardigans for the fundraising shop, together with lots of toiletries, pyjamas, and leggings, for those women who benefit from additional support in difficult financial circumstances.

First Aid in the Home - A life saving 2 hour course taught by an award-winning and former paramedic Steve Evans who delivered vital information on resuscitation, choking, bleeds CPR, burns, knife wounds and the use of a defibrillator! We plan on running this course every six months.

For the children at the Five Children and Family Trust in Speke, we filled miniature wheelie bins with sweets so the children could give them to someone who cares for them as a Christmas gift.



Education, Economic and Environment PAC Group

Lodge Lane Pantry Readers' Club (weekly each Thursday)

Thanks to the generosity of SI Liverpool members, their families and friends, we have given out over 550 children's books since starting in November 2021. The children keep the books, all of which are new, or nearly new. There have been 2 recent developments:

- a) We were asked to hold a 'story time' during school holidays. This was very successful.
- b) We have so many books that we are now sharing with other foodbanks and food pantries across Liverpool.

Our PAC group also made a financial contribution to The Oakleaf Trust to support its work with bereaved children at Christmas.



Violence and Conflict PAC Group

Last year, our group voted to support WHISC (Women's Health Information and Support Centre), an incredible local organisation that serves 4000 (plus) women and their families per year, and has been active since 1984. Our target this year was to help vulnerable women who were victims of abuse, and refugees. Thanks to the many donations of toiletries, we were able to give Christmas baskets, as well as a monetary donation, to this charity for Christmas 2022. The group is planning further events to raise funds in 2023.

Moreover, we supported a very worthy charity; Refugee Network, with donations in kind. Both charities were overwhelmed by this generosity and sent effusive letters of thanks to the group. We received a seasonal card greetings from the Refugee Women Network. Our group supported the Network last year with collection of toiletries and some members supported their family Christmas party in December.

