

Soroptimist Conference - Dublin

The incoming President is Siew Yong Gnanalingam who is from Malaysia and therefore a member of the South East Asia Pacific (SEAP) Federation. The convention had a room filled with 1700 Soroptimists from round the world. SI had a new logo that was launched at the conference. Clubs had been asked to design a poster to be considered for display at the Convention (we did not submit one) there was however a poster regarding the Domestic Abuse Courts Project that some of you participated in. This was submitted by UKPAC. Various opening speeches were followed by the first of the six keynote speakers. Speaking with others at the Convention the consensus was, as with all events, some key speakers were better than others. Three were exceptional, Mary Robinson former President of Ireland, Jim Gamble - Safeguarding, Renata Dwan - Women, Peace and Cyber Security Securing our Future. We also met with members from our friendship link clubs Oslo, Cologne and Toronto. With much joviality the 2027 Convention was launched. This will be a Royal Caribbean Cruise to Alaska in July 2027. <https://siconvention.org/en>



Speaker - Good Food Programme Director

Speaker, Dr Naomi Maynard, Good Food Programme Director, gave a very interesting and informative talk on 'Feeding Liverpool', an independent charity tackling food insecurity in the Liverpool area, particularly in the north of the city.

Feeding Liverpool is the city of Liverpool's food alliance, connecting and equipping people and organisations to work towards good food for all.

She spoke at length about the Good Food Plan which addresses the key issues to the food we eat and how different people perceive what good food means to them eg. Healthy, nutritious food, plenty of fruit and vegetables, a homecooked, tasty meal, food pantrys and accessibility whatever income levels also, supply of food and where it comes from.

Naomi provided local information which we can share to ensure that the people of Liverpool can access help and guidance to good food and organisations who can provide assistance to those who need it. She also shared stories from local people who have benefited from the excellent work her organisation provides.

Visit – feedingliverpool.org or email Naomi at naomi@feedingliverpool.org



Princes Park Walk

Soroptimists set out on a guided tour of the park where they planted 100 trees to celebrate receiving the Planet Award and in anticipation of our upcoming Centenary in 2027. A short history of the park tells us that in 2004 a group of local people and park users formed 'Friends of Princes Park' to work towards improving the park and to improve its environment, providing the green lungs of Liverpool 8.

Planting has been supported by Liverpool City Council, The Mersey Forrest and the Woodland Trust. We were guided around the Park today by an original member of Friends of Princes Park from 2004.

We began at the Sunburst Gates entrance where once stood the Doric Lodge, though nothing remains due to it being bombed in 1940. Not too far into the park from the main Sunburst Gates entrance we found the grave of "Judy" a donkey which gave rides to the children, who visited the park, for over twenty years. The gravestone is dated 1926.

Our Friend explained that more than thirteen years ago they started a rolling plan to plant and care for trees within the park and to improve and create new habitats for wildlife. Crucially they worked closely with the City Council and in recent years, Glendale, the City Council's green-space maintenance contractors, who have encouraged and supported their work. They hold regular tree and wildlife walks for local people to enjoy. 30-40 people regularly take part in our planting and tree work.



They have also coppiced the woodland plantations, including the 100 trees planted by SI Liverpool in 2020/2021 to ensure healthy growth in the future. This is part of their ongoing tree care. We spotted some very beautiful new plants, Rose Gall or 'Robin's pincushion' and acknowledged the beautiful planting around our Larches and Scots pines, offering vibrant colour and protection. We walked around the lake, and also saw the 'island' improvements. We completed our walk with a rest on a celebratory ark bench and a picnic.



Alder Hey

Club members supported immediate Past President Lynne as she presented a cheque for over £2,600, raised during her Presidency for the Neo-natal unit at Alder Hey. Congratulations Lynne. The work of the unit will benefit children and families from the Merseyside region and beyond!



Strawberry Fields Visit

We had a lovely visit to Strawberry Fields to present a cheque for £500 raised by SI Liverpool, as one of our chosen Charities for 2022/23.

We were hosted by the Salvation Army, Allister and Kath, who run the 'Steps to Work' programme for which we had specifically raised the funds.

Steps to Work provides an incredible opportunity for young people in Liverpool with learning difficulties or other barriers to employment, to develop and achieve their goals.

Strawberry Fields is the training hub and offers a 12-18 month programme that combines education and work placements to ensure trainees are truly work ready.

Allister took time to tell us the journeys of some of the young people who had benefited from the scheme then we all went into the Strawberry Fields café for coffee and cake!



Flower Event

The first of President Ann's fundraising events was a great success! Guests enjoyed an informative and entertaining talk by John who started his organic flower farm in 2019 on the banks of the River Mersey, Lakes and Rivers Flower Farm. Handy tips for the care of cut flowers, how to grow organic, a gift of a feverfew plant and donated flowers for the raffle made for a really enjoyable evening.



Afternoon Garden Party

President Ann and member Rosemary opened their houses and gardens during summer for afternoon for garden parties in aid of President Ann's charity, The Women's Organisation. Beautiful and delicious cakes went down well, as did the opportunities to sit outside and chat in the sunshine.

Violence and Conflict PAC Group

Sue spoke about the Violence Against Women and Girls strategy that was published by The Police and Crime Commissioner's office in November 2022. This will be sent to group members.

The report that has been produced by SIGBI re Special Domestic Abuse Courts was launched on LBC radio station. It has since been sent to all those who were involved with the process. Sue has an email from the hub re report and all the people and organisations it has been sent to.

Dorcas will wait for the report and at a later date contact the Police Crime Commissioner Emily Spurrell.

Dorcas contacted South Liverpool Domestic Abuse (DA) Services and received a programme of coffee mornings held for those who are survivors of DA or going through DA at the moment and need support.

It is held Bridge Chapel, Speke Centre and St Brides Centre. It was discussed at our group meeting that hopefully club members would support by providing tea and coffee to the centres.

Dorothy has made contact with RASA who would be willing to talk to group/ club re the work they do supporting those who have been subjected to rape or sexual assault.

Education, Economic and Environment PAC Group

The Soroptibooks project continues to flourish. Some EEE members have been involved in helping Marie and her fabulous (techie) family with creating the Presentation for the Rose Bowl Challenge. The voluntary team was supported by other PAC groups as all Club members supported the scheme by contributing books for the project. All the Club have done a fantastic job. The Winner will be announced at the Region's New Members Lunch in September. The group have also designed book marks to be given to the children when distributing the books.

EEE Group arranged a guided tour with Katy Gardner, a Friend Of Princes Park to look at the progress of SI Liverpool's 2020/21 planted trees and also at how wonderful the park looks as it gathers more and more interest in the City, especially with the Lake Bridge its Mandela 8 focus too. Our tree planting will hopefully feature in our 2027 Centenary celebrations and maybe our EEE group will lead the way, maybe arranging an annual Summer Event like a fundraising Picnic in the Park. After this guided tour Elaine (as Friendship Link Co-ordinator) was able to take a Visitor, Karen Thornton from SI Geelong, Australia around the park. Karen was particularly interested in our tree planting as they hadn't been able to plant their own trees; one major obstacle being too many snakes!

The Group are also looking to participate in STEM week in November, plans are at an early stage.

Health PAC Group

Reduce Your Risk of Heart Disease

Liverpool Soroptomists are pleased to partner with Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital NHS Foundation Trust to offer a free heart health event for women in October 2023.

We are looking forward to welcoming ladies to the event scheduled for October 23 at Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital.



Time to Talk

Members and guests joined at time to talk, to enjoy a lovely mix of conversation and company. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all.



25th of the month - Orange Cafe's

Over the past months, members and guests have worn orange to observe the 25th of each month as designated by the United Nations in its campaign to raise and take action to end Domestic Violence against Women and Girls.

Visit with Lord Mayor

I recently met with Lord Mayor Mary Rasmussen at Liverpool Town Hall to ask her to become an Honorary member of SI Liverpool. She says she will be delighted to and had also agreed to attend our forthcoming international lunch in December. She will be attending a future club meeting to receive her badge and to meet our members. We look forward to her visit.



King Charles Coronation

President Ann sent King Charles and Queen Consort Camilla a card to congratulate them on their Coronation. In response, we received this beautiful card.





UKPAC Meeting

On 9th September Annette attended the UKPAC meeting in Leamington Spa at a hotel in beautiful grounds. She gave a talk about her work in Safeguarding. The meeting included a review of the nine months since the last face to face meeting discussing the domestic abuse specialist courts, Climate Challenge, Modern Slavery, Women's Safety. They also introduced the Foodbank Project 'Lillys Foodbank' which is focused on making bags which have ingredients for meals and a recipe card rather than just random food projects. For Women against Violence, two designs were shown of cards which have information on how to get help or access resources. There was also a talk about the SIGBI Consultation paper with a 'Question & Action' session. It was an excellent event and a lovely chance to get together with everyone.

Dates for your Diary

SEPTEMBER

- 6th- "Time to Talk" 11am Toby Carvery, Aigburth Road
- 12th- Exec Meeting 6:45pm
- 16th Regional Programme Action Mtg (am) AGM Council Mtg (pm) at Leigh Sports Stadium, Sale Way, WN7 4JY
- 17th- Regional New Members & Awards Lunch at Statham Lodge.
- 27th- CLUB MEETING 7pm Halfway House
- 28th - Charity Quiz Night, Mossley Hill Athletic Club, 7:30pm

OCTOBER

- 4th- "Time to Talk" 11am Toby Carvery, Aigburth Road
- 10th- Exec Meeting 6:45pm
- 14th - A21 Walk for Freedom
- 14th - Heart Health Event for Women
- 25th- **CLUB MEETING** 7pm Halfway House

NOVEMBER

- 1st- "Time to Talk" 11am Toby Carvery, Aigburth Road
- 14th- Exec Meeting 6:45pm
- 22nd- **CLUB MEETING** 7pm Halfway House
- 25th- 16 Days of Activism against Violence Against Women and Girls begins

DECEMBER

- 2nd **Regional Programme Action Mtg** (am) **Council Mtg** (pm) at Leigh Sports Stadium, Sale Way, WN7 4JY
- 6th- "Time to Talk" 11am Toby Carvery, Aigburth Road
- 10th- **International Lunch** 12.00 Liverpool Cricket Club, Aigburth Rd, L19 3QF

2024

JANUARY

- 3rd- "Time to Talk" 11am Toby Carvery, Aigburth Road
- 9th- Exec Meeting 6:45pm
- 24th- **CLUB MEETING** 7pm Halfway House

