

President: **Rosemarie Marginson**

Issue No 67
Winter 2017

Dear Club Members



I don't know what the weather is like with you but yesterday we had the most tremendous rain storms and I returned to the cottage after a visit to the chiropodist to find that I had to paddle from the car to the patio and the water over my shoes gave my feet an unwelcome wash. This morning I awoke to learn that the River Cefni had broken its banks and the centre of Llangefni (our local market town) was flooded and the A55 closed in two places. I'm so glad I had a day at home planned.

On the bright side my Soroptimist rose, after a brief rest, has produced two buds which have opened and my car, which was very muddy, has been completely cleaned by the spray as I drove home yesterday.



Kathleen



FRIENDSHIP EVENING

For our Friendship Evening this year a quiz with cheese and wine was advertised for Saturday, 7th October, and around 50 people turned up. Support from S I Clubs Ashton-under-Lyne and Stockport was, as always, much appreciated and we also had the pleasure of welcoming our Regional President Margaret with members from S I Leigh.



Soroptimists and friends had made short work of arranging the furniture and we quickly organised ourselves into teams of four. The hall was full, the bar doing a brisk trade and the noise level increasing as President Rosemarie opened the event with a welcome to everyone, followed by our candle lighting ceremony, remembering our Friendship Links around the world.



The professional Quiz Master, kindly arranged by Susan, then took over with a well-constructed quiz, which required a high level of concentration, as did making our choice from a variety of quality cheeses, pâté, French bread and wine.



All too soon our answers had been checked and an interesting twist in the final question ensured no tie scores or ambiguity in deciding the winning team - Rosemary, Gus, Elaine and Rosemary's friend Valerie - who were suitably rewarded. Need I mention that a raffle brought this very enjoyable evening to a close.



I always think that the success of any event is how quickly people leave at the end and no-one was in a hurry to leave this one – just as a Friendship Evening should be. £316 was raised on the night.

Our thanks to everyone who helped but particularly to our Social Committee labouring unseen in the kitchen who invariably prepare and serve all the great food. They could do with a few more pairs of hands to keep the show on the road though.

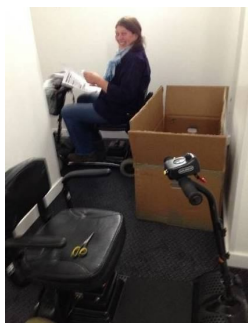
Stella Kay

SIGBI CONFERENCE: 'OUR HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS ON TOUR – THE CARDIFF CHALLENGE!'

Last year Malta, this year Wales.....who thought it was going to be simple?

Arrangements began very well; we found suitable apartments just across the concourse from the Millennium Centre, 'Sainsburys Local' on the ground floor and 'parking available'. (I even managed to spread the word about Soroptimists to the very helpful lady taking our booking!)

Kathleen and Hilary (her daughter) then began their 'how do we get to Cardiff' part of the challenge simple really, fly down and return by rail, but not until Monday! Yvonne and I stuck to our plan to drive there and back! Then came the 'scooter hire' taskunbelievably, Cardiff and the surrounding area only has one local firm doing short-term scooter hire but they only had two scooters and they were already out on long-term hire!?! So, we went to a company advertising 'nationwide service' and, thanks to the help of Tory, the now prospective Soroptimist who had taken our booking, were able to conquer the various aspects of their 'service' and have the scooters delivered to their office 'just up the road'.



Soon after we'd all arrived and checked in to our apartments, the scooters arrived in pieces in two huge coffin-like boxes! The obliging UPS delivery man was persuaded by Tory to divert to the apartment block and then took pity on me and Hilary and trolleyed them to the lift for us ... we managed to get the boxes out of the lift on the first floor then decided to put them together for ease of handling. With only minor inconvenience to understanding residents, we did get them together BUT they were no easier to handle because we couldn't get them going!! Hilary and I had just resorted to re-reading the inadequate instructions when Immediate Past Federation President Margaret Emsley and friends emerged from the lift. Margaret offered sympathy and I replied 'I know what you do for a living!' as they disappeared into their apartment! A few minutes later

Margaret took pity on us and added her engineering talents to the mix.....still no success! However, Margaret could contribute a phone with a signal so we rang the helpline for further instructionour misunderstanding that the brake had to be on before the scooter would move was corrected.....still no movement!! So we wiggled everything that would wiggle once more.....and a whoop from Hilary declared that hers was moving! Our HLM's were blissfully unaware of our trials, thankfully!

Of course Yvonne and Kathleen quickly mastered the scooters as we headed for the Opening Ceremony. Access to the Millennium Centre is good but we did receive mixed messages from the Stewards. The 'Parade of the Flags' carried by Girl Guides was disappointing without the accompanying representatives, particularly the African and Indian ladies in national dress. The entertainment was given by the Bristol Military Wives Choir, just fifteen of them, sadly overpowered by their very loud piano accompaniment (Have sound checks gone out of fashion!?)



Keynote speakers were superb.

Michael Kaufman, co-founder of the White Ribbon Campaign. His message to us was

"We Must Enlist Men and Boys in the Fight to End Violence Against Women" He said "feminism is the greatest gift men have ever had – it frees them to be the men they want to be – redefining the world of equality and justice".

Rebecca Lewin, Director of Logistics and Procurement at Plan International. Rebecca told us her experience of leading the Plan International team, one of the first to arrive in Nepal after the earthquake. The logistical nightmare of providing shelter, clothing, food and cooking facilities for 100,000 people began and was achieved.

Mandy Hickson urged us to *"Dream it. Believe it. Do it"* Mandy had aspired to become a fighter pilot before the RAF even acknowledged that women could fly! She made it to the frontline and flew a Tornado jet fighter on 45 combat missions in Iraq as the only female air crew member at that time, and one of only three women in the RAF to do so to date. An inspiration to us all!

Dame Katherine Grainger, Britain's most successful female Olympian, has won a silver or gold medal at the last five Olympic Games. Dame Katherine's messages to us were of self-belief, support for each other and the value of small steps as well as big ones.

The "Closing Ceremony and Change of Insignia" was followed by The Phil Dando Band and Singers who had managed a sound check, thankfully!

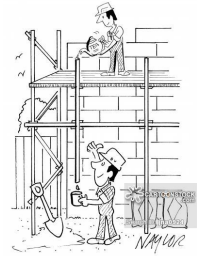
Sunday was a day of relaxation and reflection for Yvonne, Kathleen, Hilary and I. We had a leisurely lunch and talked of 'this time next year' when I will be coming into office as Regional President in Liverpool, 25th to 27th October 2018; please **Save the Date!**



Hilary and I had one more challenge to face.....the scooters had to be packed back into their boxes and be back at the office 'just up the road' by 9:30am on Monday morning for collection by UPS. OK, we said, you be Mandy Hickson and I'll be Rebecca Lewin, how difficult can it be?!? Logistically, we decided to first carry the coffin boxes, one inside the other, 'just up the road' to the office, then we would return and ride the scooters 'just up the road' and dismantle and pack them in the boxes.

Procurement involved sourcing some industrial strength parcel tape to secure the coffins (no, I hadn't packed any!) and buying a bucket of sweets for Tory and her colleagues so that they would have at least one positive memory of us and Soroptimism! Now, 'just up the road' involved crossing at least two roads, manoeuvring our way through scaffolding and passing a newsagents who would hopefully stock parcel tape!

So, we managed to get the coffin boxes stacked, took a side each and set off – we arrived at the scaffolding just as the builders did! They watched with interest and we noted that they had a van if Plan B had to be formed! Tory's colleague accepted the boxes and went in search of parcel tape for us.....no luck but she was willing to search further afield whilst we were gone! On the way back to the apartments we called in the Newsagents who did stock parcel tape and promised that he would give us a wave when we passed by on the scooters! Bearing in mind that Hilary and I are true novices at scooter driving, we each conquered the door and lift challenges to meet outside for the final journey! (Just how we did that will stay forever in the corridors and lift of the building!) I doubt that Mandy H or Rebecca L would have set off 'just up the road' with more trepidation than us when they went into a war zone or disaster area!?! We relaxed after we managed the first pelican crossing in reasonable order.....Hilary quipped that she felt as if we'd landed in an episode of 'Little Britain'! We certainly livened up a Monday morning for the builders and newsagent – we may have had a photo if they could have stopped laughing for long enough! As we repacked the scooters, we marvelled at them coming from and returning to Glasgow, an 800 mile round trip!?! 'Mandy' and 'Rebecca' strolled back to the apartment, mission accomplished! Maybe I should have been wearing my 'Ask me why I'm a Soroptimist' T-shirtor was it another 'Remind me why I'm a Soroptimist!' moment?!?



So, another 'On Tour with our HLM's' inspirational trip, packed with friendship and laughter! Looking forward to next year in Liverpool. The apartments are already booked!

Sue Underwood



THE GIRLS' NETWORK



The founders, Charly and Becca, were secondary school teachers in North West London when they became aware of the multiple barriers facing girls in the least advantaged communities in our country. They established a one-to-one mentoring scheme for 30 girls in 2013 based on research showing that conversation and personal relationships can have a big impact on challenging stereotypes and raising expectations. The Girls' Network mentoring scheme was soon in high demand and the charity grew to operate across London and the south coast in the following years.

In 2017 the charity was able to expand into other parts of the country including Greater Manchester. It came to the attention of our club through Barbara Blaber's friend, Susan Webster, who is an Ambassador for them, and Barbara and I were invited to a breakfast event in Altrincham in November 2016. (Yes, I got up and out on a dark morning and rode a tram from one side of the city to the other before sunrise to attend this!) However, the welcome was warm, the food delicious and the ideas on offer were nothing but exceptional.

Here we met Hayley Misell, the Network Coordinator for Greater Manchester and in January 2017 organised for her to meet with our Regional Programme Action Chair, Yvonne Gibbon. Hayley was invited to speak at the regional PAC meeting in June. From the outset, I was so taken with the ideals of this charity that I knew I wanted to be one of their Mentors, so I signed up on-line the week after the regional meeting.

I was invited to their next Mentor Training evening in early September at a venue in the city centre. There were eight of us and I was the only one no longer working, with women coming from a variety of backgrounds including management, sales, IT and public service. We had all been sent a Mentor Training Pack and this formed the basis of the evening with sessions centred around building a relationship with a Mentee, do's and don'ts, expectations, the principles of a positive relationship and safeguarding. Another important task was for us to provide ID documents so that DBS clearance could be obtained.

At the time of writing (late November), my DBS certificate arrived in the previous week and I will be attending a 'matching event' on Wednesday November 29th and there I will get to meet my girl! I think it will be quite an adventure to work together with her over the next year and I will keep you updated about how it goes. I do hope that the club can support this charity in the future.

Val Moss



COFFEE POT LUNCH

This has become a standard in our calendar, but how did it begin? Years ago, when there were not so many retired members, we used to meet monthly at each other's homes for a cup of coffee and a chat. Peggy Howarth kept the rota and for those not happy with going out in the evening, it was a way of keeping in touch.



After several years, it was suggested we have a Christmas lunch and we used several venues, including my home. The number has grown and to give it a name, we settled on "The Coffee Pot Lunch". It is completely informal; former members, friends and family are all welcome.

As there are a number of events in December and January, the next Coffee Pot Lunch will be in May 2018.

Yvonne Mullen



PADDINGTON

Our bear is nearly as old as his famous friend. He joined the Club a long time ago when the International Project was to provide education and marketing skills to women living in the Andes in Peru.

On completion of the Project, we decided to keep Paddington for all the future International Projects (adjusting his appearance to suit the project) collecting five pence pieces.

With the latest film, it still seems relevant for Paddington to be our international focus.

Yvonne Mullen



TIME FOR REFLECTION

"Madness, madness, they call it madness". The Prince Buster song is currently being used for a McDonald's coffee advertisement, but it's generally how I feel as we move towards "the Festive Season"!

This week, I saw a lady interviewed on breakfast television who starts planning for the big day in September - and I mean PLANNING! Her day by day project plan sets out everything with military precision - presents all wrapped and ready to post by December 1st, cards written, meal planned, tree decorated etc. As a project manager, I was proud of her. I did wonder though, if she had

carried out a risk analysis and had a contingency plan drawn up. For example, what would she have done if, as happened to my sister one year, the dog stole the half-frozen turkey and was found dragging it round the garden? Or, like the year we volunteered to do all the cooking for Christmas Day and then had a major power cut late on Christmas Eve?



As we move in to 2018, I will be looking forward to my year as President of SI Manchester. The New Year is always a good time for reflection, and I hope you will join me at the January club meeting to talk about our last couple of years as a club and to plan for the forthcoming year and beyond. If you have a quiet moment over the next hectic weeks, could you think about our successes and how we can build on them? What do you love about our club and what would you like to do more of, or less of, or just do differently? And if you can't be at the meeting in January, please do email me your thoughts. Wishing you all the best for a joyful festive season and a happy and peaceful New Year

Barbara B

President Elect - (blaberb@aol.com)



AGE UK FUN DAY AT SALFORD QUAYS - RAISING DEMENTIA AWARENESS.

The day involved Sponsored Dragon Boat Races and many other activities, stalls and food! Running the Tea and Cake Stall was non-stop, from the minute we arrived (servicing those there early to set everything up), during the activities and long after the last Dragon Boat Race when people were clearing away. It did give us chance to 'network' as we served people and we were awesome raising over £300. You can see by the hat that we had to be Health and Safety conscious (and clear and clean the tables and keep the place ship-shape) but we managed to get our promotional banners and leaflets in prime position and a great deal of interest was shown. It also introduced us to our next speaker, a lovely lady who runs an organisation called "Dancing with Dementia". She runs the equivalent of Tea Dances with her trained ballroom dancers partnering people with Dementia, to brighten their day. And the picture won us the SIGBI 'Photo of the Month' Award!!



Susan Hollick



CORNERSTONE

It is a disgrace that in our prosperous City of Manchester, with all its wealth and technological advances there should be the shocking reality of homelessness and so many people suffering loneliness. Despite the provision of night-shelters, the numbers sleeping rough on our streets continues to grow, and particularly young men and women, little more than children, who have no place to call home.

Now there is the added problem of Refugees, mainly from Sudan, Iran, Syria and Eritrea escaping political unrest and war. From being a Day Centre, open 10am to 4pm Cornerstone has responded to their need and is now open 24hours a day, every day.

They now have 10 'Pods', temporarily sleeping 40 people and at 4pm, the tables and chairs in the main hall are stacked, to be replaced by camp beds for women and children and whole families of refugees who need a protected environment. The increase in numbers creates the need for three times the number of volunteers and a tremendous increase in the amount of food, bedding and counselling.

There are 60 people in two-hour English lessons in the afternoon and evening sessions and three Levels of attainment certification recognised by the Government. Classes in Life Skills and Counselling continue at increased levels. They work with St. Vincent's Housing, who provide temporary housing, 20 to a house, during the seemingly endless period it takes to assess and provide necessary documentation and benefits for these people before they can be moved on to a home of their own. Staff then visit them twice a week until they can manage on their own.



Yvonne, Rebekah and Susan on a visit

Fundraising continues. Their overnight "Sleep-out" raised over £70,000 in the spring and people continue to be generous with donations of food, bedding and clothing. Builders working nearby, recently offered their practical help and their "What can we do for you, in our spare time, while we are working here" turned into them totally refurbishing the Toilet and Shower blocks for the men and women. A local Dentist comes in regularly to check teeth and now there are eye test too.

This year Cornerstone is celebrating 25 years of working here and Sister Lucy, who has been their driving force for the past 15 years, her 80th Birthday. Our Club have been supporting them for many years (introduced to us by Shena) and every time I visit with donations I am humbled by the

happiness they create from such great sorrow. Long may we continue to help them grow and serve the people of Manchester.

Susan Hollick



FRANCIS HOUSE CHRISTMAS TREE

For the past several years we have donated a Christmas tree for the benefit of Francis House Children’s Hospice. Together with other donors, we gather at The Lowry Centre to dress our trees and they are eventually auctioned to raise much-needed funds. This year President Rose and Soroptimister John, together with Rosemary S, did the honours and a splendid job they made. Many thanks!



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Special Christmas greetings to Peggy who is in our thoughts, although she is not able to attend meetings.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Many Happy Returns to all members celebrating a birthday before the next issue of this Newsletter.

Clelia Gatley	8 th	January	Sally Carr	31 st	January
Stella Kay	14 th	January	Donnet Richardson	12 th	February
Kathleen Beavis	14 th	January	Rebekah Readhead	25 th	February
Elaine Loader	23 rd	January	Beatrice Leigh	27 th	February



DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Tuesday,	12 th	Dec 2017	Members’ Christmas Party at President Rose’s home.
Friday,	22 nd	Dec 2017	Macclesfield Male Voice Choir – Royal Northern College of Music.
Sunday,	14 th	Jan 2018	90 th Birthday Party for Stella at the Pinewood. Details to follow.
Saturday,	18th	Feb 2018	Fiona will host a Pancake Party at her home.
Saturday,	3rd	March 2018	S I Manchester’s 92nd Annual Dinner at Marriott Hotel, Hale Barns.
Tuesday,	10th	Apr 2018	Annual General Meeting. Details to follow.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS:

We are grateful to all who, in lieu of cards, have sent their Christmas greetings on the following pages. The donations will go to our General Charities Account.



Copy for the next edition of the Newsletter by Friday, 17th February, please. Personal anecdotes would be welcomed.
Kathleen Beavis and Maureen Heywood



We wish all our members and families a very Happy Christmas and New Year from Rosemarie and John



Seasons Greetings to all my Soroptimist friends and their families. With very best wishes from Barbara B



With very best wishes for a wonderful festive season. Rosemary and Gus



Christmas greetings to you all with health and happiness in 2018 Yvonne



A very Happy Christmas to all Soroptimists and their families with a great New Year in 2018 Stella



We wish you joy over the festive season and health and happiness for 2018. In friendship Fiona. Paul. Alex and Ciara



With best wishes for a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year from Barry and Shena



Health and happiness to you and yours Sue



Merry Christmas to all members and their families from Val



**Best Wishes for Christmas
and the New Year from Pat**



**Happy Christmas and all
good wishes for 2018
Ann**



**Happy Christmas from
Barbara and Mario**



**With all best wishes for
Christmas and the New
Year
Lynne Enoch**



**Love and best wishes to you
all and your families for
Christmas
from Susan and David.**



**Joy at Christmas and
Peace and Good Health in
the coming year
Love to all Kathleen**



**Warm greetings to you and
yours
from Maureen and Bill**



**Wishing everyone a hopeful,
happy and healthy New
Year Elaine**



**To all my Soroptimist
friends wishing you a very
good Christmas and a
happy and healthy New
Year from Clelia**