

### Soroptimist International of Manchester

President: Rosemary Steven

Dear Club Members,

Welcome (at last!) to the 'Summer Special' edition of your Newsletter. Many thanks for all of your contributions. When I start bringing them all together I just don't know when to stop!

Summer Special 2020 Issue No 74

So, we're back in 'lockdown'. Not a surprise after witnessing the behaviour of the 15-25 year olds on the Quays ....sadly their parents were often joining in the mayhem .....I daresay we have the British weather to thank for the days when we weren't invaded. But, on a positive note, you now have some new reading material!

#### Sue Underwood



We are all members of one of the most diverse organisations in the world, our Club has for over ninety years given service in our multicultural city. We are now proud to be an extremely diverse Club with members from a wide range of countries and ethnic backgrounds. Soroptimist International has challenged all Soroptimists to do even better and to demonstrate clearly that we are an anti-racist organisation.

We are all facing unprecedented challenges as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. Many of us are really struggling with loneliness, anxiety, boredom and financial uncertainty. As a Club we have striven to ensure we support our partner organisations locally and internationally. We have embraced modern technology to provide social contact and have tried to remain optimistic as we reflect on our aspirations for a better future in a society based on equal opportunities for all.

It is impossible at the current time to make definitive plans, however if you have any ideas what we as a club could do in response to the 'Black Lives Matter' campaign or any specific project for consideration in the future to enable us to contribute effectively I would look forward to hearing from you. Your ideas would then contribute to an action plan enabling SI Manchester to make a difference in the future.

In Friendship

#### **President Rosemary**

#### Elaine did some research ......Black Lives Matter, Manchester 1862

The Lancashire Cotton Famine, also known as the Cotton Famine or the Cotton Panic (1861–65), was a depression in the textile industry of North West England, brought about by overproduction in a time of contracting world markets. It coincided with the interruption of baled cotton imports caused by the American Civil War and speculators buying up new stock for storage.

On 31 December 1862, a meeting of cotton workers at the Free Trade Hall in Manchester, despite their increasing hardship, resolved to support the Union in its fight against slavery.

An extract from the letter they wrote in the name of the Working People of Manchester to His Excellency Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States of America says:

... the vast progress which you have made in the short space of twenty months fills us with hope that every stain on your freedom will shortly be removed, and that the erasure of that foul blot on civilisation and Christianity – chattel slavery – during your presidency, will cause the name of Abraham Lincoln to be honoured and revered by posterity. We are certain that such a glorious consummation will cement Great Britain and the United States in close and enduring regards.

- Public Meeting, Free Trade Hall, Manchester, 31 December 1862.



On 19 January 1863, Abraham Lincoln sent an address thanking the cotton workers of Lancashire for their support,

... I know and deeply deplore the sufferings which the working people of Manchester and in all Europe are called to endure in this crisis. It has been often and studiously represented that the attempt to overthrow this Government which was built on the foundation of human rights, and to substitute for it one which should rest exclusively on the basis of slavery, was unlikely to obtain the favour of Europe.

Through the action of disloyal citizens, the working people of Europe have been subjected to a severe trial for the purpose of forcing their sanction to that attempt. Under the circumstances I cannot but regard your decisive utterances on the question as an instance of sublime Christian heroism which has not been surpassed in any age or in any country. It is indeed an energetic and re-inspiring assurance of the inherent truth and of the ultimate and universal triumph of justice, humanity and freedom.

I hail this interchange of sentiments, therefore, as an augury that, whatever else may happen, whatever misfortune may befall your country or my own, the peace and friendship which now exists between the two nations will be, as it shall be my desire to make them, perpetual.

- Abraham Lincoln, 19 January 1863

A monument in Brazenose Street, Lincoln Square, Manchester, commemorates the events and reproduces portions of both documents. The Federal American government sent a gift of food to the people of Lancashire.



Flour barrel - part of food relief from Free States to North West England, Touchstones Rochdale

Lincoln was less impressed with the activities at the other end of the East Lancs Road. Even though the British official policy was one of neutrality, Liverpool supported the southern slave states with armaments and provisions of war of all kinds, merchant ships and crews and essentially warships and the crews to man them. At one point, Lincoln threatened to declare war on the UK if the vessels being built at Lairds were delivered to the Confederacy.

#### Elaine Loader

#### Elaine's daughter Kitty's fundraiser.....

Kitty began raising money by selling candles in order to give donations to the Black Lives Matter movement.

"I'm making the candles from re-purposing pudding ramekins and previously used candle holders to cut down on the cost of buying more materials to ensure more money goes to those in need and to help the environment"



## ....& from our 'Foreign Correspondent' Val

In the last few weeks protesters across the country have targeted statues of contentious historic figures, but attacks on statues are nothing new.

In Preston during the suffragettes' fight to gain the vote for women, one of their more militant members caused damage to a statue which can still be seen today.

**Edith Rigby** was arrested and imprisoned seven times for crimes including an arson attack on Lord Leverhulme's Rivington home and throwing a bomb into the Exchange Buildings in Liverpool.

She also daubed the Earl of Derby's statue in Miller Park with tar and a 'Votes for Women' poster but escaped the long arm of the law on that occasion by dressing in male clothing and riding off on a bicycle.

The statue cost £2500 was unveiled in May 1873 in front of a crowd on 40,000 people. It shows Edward Geoffrey Stanley, the 14th Earl of Derby and three time Prime Minister, holding his coat tails but that didn't save him from Edith Rigby's tar attack and the stains are still clearly visible.

Edith Rigby is remembered with a blue plaque on the wall of her former home in

Winckley Square, just a short walk from the statue. In recent years a campaign has been launched for a statue of her. **Val Moss** 



# Do You Know All About These Inspirational Women?



This is a Quiz Challenge!

Make sure that you know all about them & I will challenge you with a Quiz .....

SIM Quiz Zoom at 7pm on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> August!

# **President Rosemary**

I was born in a small town in County Durham situated midway between the historic city of Durham and Sunderland on the North East coast. I lived, studied and worked there until I moved with my career to the Spa town of Harrogate in Yorkshire where I lived throughout the 70s.

In 1981 an exciting career opportunity resulted in me relocating to Manchester, a city I had never visited and knew no-one. My family and friends were baffled as to why I would leave such a desirable town and move across the Pennines, however I found so many things in Manchester which impressed me and have greatly enjoyed almost 40 years here in the North West.

Shortly after I arrived I enrolled at a dental practice in the centre of Manchester and was introduced by the dental hygienist, Maureen Vince a former Club President, to

Soroptimism and have never regretted choosing that specific practice. In 1984 my parents also moved to this area to enable me to support my mother to care for my father. My parents had lived until their mid 70s in the same North Eastern town so it was quite an upheaval. However my mother enjoyed her new life here and lived until she was 98 near me.

In 2007 whilst on holiday in Tunisia with our member Sophie I met Gus and when we married in 2008 he also moved to Manchester, again to the astonishment of family and friends as he had lived in a pretty fishing village on the beautiful East Lothian coast very near the magnificent Scottish capital city of Edinburgh. He like me loves it here and has no regrets moving south of the border.

Soroptimism has been an important part of my life in the North West and I am extremely honoured to have been President twice of such a great club.

#### **President Rosemary**

# Shena Cuttle



I was born on 8<sup>th</sup> November, 1943, in Glasgow. My parents, John and Cathy, waited for seven years for me and a further eight years before my sister, Alison, was born. My father's father was a lawyer; my father was a lawyer, my sister was a lawyer; her husband was a lawyer and my son, Fraser, was a lawyer (but is now in the army). My mother, aged seven, went to live in Calcutta with her parents but, due to the heat, she left every March until just before Christmas. The little train, which took her from Calcutta up into the Himalayas, had big torches to keep the animals at bay. My mother always told me that spending nine months of the year away from her parents did her no harm!

She came back to Glasgow at the age of 16 and was in the Glasgow School of Arts. She was given a four-year scholarship at the time of the famous Charles Rennie

Mackintosh artists during the 1920s. Not for me!!!

When I was around four years old, we came to live in Strone in Argyll. Every day for two years my father went by boat to Gourock and then by train to Glasgow for work and then back home for 7pm. My home was very quiet, with the front garden onto the loch and the road at the back with one 'bus in the morning and back at night. Beautiful in the summer but in the winter ......!

From age five, I travelled every day, by myself on the 'bus, to a little school in Dunoon, almost like a Dame School; one teacher with two rooms. Scottish education at that time was absolutely excellent – not as now.

I then went to the Dunoon Grammar School, aged 10 being two years ahead. Unfortunately, my father had a heart problem so when I was aged 13 we all came back to live in Glasgow. From the first minute, I loved living there and I went to a school called Hutcheson (Hutchy) and I am still very proud of it.

My sister also started at Hutchy and immediately showed that she never had to work; she was so intelligent and had a bursary for the whole of her school life. Not for me though; I always had to work hard!

Unfortunately, my father died when I was 15 and Alison 7 but my mother always gave us what she could and also an excellent education. That year, when my father had just died, my mother decided we needed a holiday so we went to the Isle of Man, as my parents had done year after year. I was not yet even 16 years old but one evening, with two friends, I went to a dance at the Palace ballroom. It was 10<sup>th</sup> August 1959.

It was the time of Teddy boys and I had no wish to dance with these lads. "Sorry, no thank you", etc. Meanwhile, Barry was upstairs with his two friends and was "looking around" and saw me (in one of my 14 dresses, made by my mother!). He decided that if he came downstairs and asked me to dance and I refused, it wouldn't be a problem



because I had refused the others. But if I said "yes" then that would be fine and we would dance. I later told him that it was not so much his being handsome that decided me but I liked his rugby badge – so different from everybody else with their "drain pipes".

With my love of Latin and Greek, I then started at Glasgow University. After my degree, I did a "Teacher Year". (So many of my friends in the 60's became teachers!)

Barry and I were married in 1965 and I left Scotland to live in Saddleworth - teaching for me and, for Barry (yet again) another lawyer! Louise was born in 1966, Fiona in 1969 and Fraser in 1975. Fiona died in 2000.

Barry knew Dorothy Mountford who was a magistrate and also President of Soroptimist International of Manchester and in 1993 Dorothy asked Barry to be the speaker at the Soroptimist annual dinner. I was also invited and really enjoyed myself. Within a week, I was asked to become a new member of S I and four years later I was President. For me, during these years, friendships were formed with so many members, both past and present.

Shena Cuttle

#### Kathleen Beavis – Honorary Member



In September 1945 I arrived at Ashburn Hall (Women's Hall of Residence) in Manchester to start my degree course. I had applied to Manchester University because the Head of the French Department was Professor Vinaver, a world authority on Racine, my favourite French dramatist. At the end of my degree course, I had to move out of Hall and as I was staying on for a further year to do a post-graduate teachers' course moved into digs in Fallowfield. During this year one of my practical placements was at Whalley Range High School where, as well as taking French classes, I helped out with games. On one occasion an away hockey match at Stand Grammar School for Girls in Whitefield coincided with a netball match at home. As hockey was very much my game, I was asked to take the team to Whitefield and to referee. This visit had a considerable bearing on my future.

At home in the North East for the Easter vacation, I applied for a teaching job at two schools: one in Yorkshire and the other at Stand. I don't think I would have applied to a school in north Manchester without having seen the building and facilities at Stand (opened in 1935). They were spacious and really up to date. I was lucky enough to be shortlisted for both schools with interviews on consecutive days. I survived the interview at Stand and was offered the job and phoned through my resignation for the interview in Yorkshire.

I spent eight extremely happy years at Stand and from connections with other members of staff I joined the Unnamed Society (a prestigious play-producing society) at which I met my future husband. I was also introduced to Anglesey by a young biology teacher who was a Girl Guide Commissioner and who persuaded me and four other members of staff to join with her to run a week's school camp on Anglesey, which we did for five years. The little theatre and Anglesey played a large part in my future life.

In 1980 a hockey-playing friend, a colour chemist with Courtaulds, who had been a Soroptimist for many years, introduced me to the Manchester Club where I was very involved in Club activities until I moved to my holiday home in Anglesey in 2006. For several years I made the car journey to Manchester about twice a month for Club meetings and events. With ageing eyes this became somewhat of a strain and I joined the Anglesey Club where I was welcomed with open arms.

#### Kathleen Beavis

#### Barbara Blaber

.....Well, I was born here! Actually, technically that's not true - I was born in Altrincham and lived



the first 23 years of my life in Sale which was, until a year later, still part of Cheshire. But I did attend Manchester University, and most people are well aware of my affiliation with a certain football team based in Stretford. Fewer people probably know about my links with the other Old Trafford and Lancashire County Cricket Club, where my grandad Ernest Moore was the official club scorer during the 1920s and 30s. Rumour has it he was also a scout for Manchester City – but we don't mention that !!

I moved away from Sale in 1976 but worked in the city, first for a firm of chartered accountants in South King Street and then for the

Guardian and Manchester Evening News on Deansgate (now Spinningfields). My various homes were in Didsbury, Cheadle Hulme, Bramhall, Lower Peover (near Knutsford) and Grasscroft. Then



due to work and family matters, I finally upped sticks and moved to the Midlands which is where, other than a couple of years in Leeds, I stayed for the next 35 years.

Those two years in Leeds were memorable for being the time when I first became a Soroptimist, introduced by a work colleague and former member of SI Manchester (where else!), Angela Wright (Fiddler) and I continued as a Soroptimist when I moved south

to Leicestershire as a member of Leicester and Loughborough clubs. During those years, I came across some now familiar faces, notably a member of the

Nottingham club, one Fiona Spencer. (& coincidentally it was Angela Wright who introduced me to Soroptimism! Sue)

Finally, in 2010 I moved back home to just a few hundred yards from where I lived with my parents. It feels like I've never been away. I renewed links with my alma mater, becoming an invigilator at the University a couple of years ago. Manchester has changed – of course it has – but the spirit is the same and I am still proud to call myself a Mancunian – even if I'm not really ...

#### Barbara Blaber

(I added the photo of Barbara with her pet ferret Joey – serves you right Barbara for making me search for a photo of you.....naturally I headed to Facebook! Sue)



#### Elaine Loader

I grew up on the outskirts of a small town, on the edge of Cannock Chase. It sounds pretty but my bedroom window looked onto a colliery and two power stations. So close that the men working in the colliery yard asked my dad why I always kept my bedroom curtains shut. I think that question answered itself!

A recently published book has my mum's story in it (Britain's 'Brown Babies' by Lucy Bland). It talks a little about how she was treated in a town that was pretty much all white. It was the same for me and my sister a generation later. We were told to "go back to where you come from", called names like gollywog, blacky-sambo, pie-face and n\*\*\*\*\*. (Pie-face is a slur against Asian people. Some of the people abusing me were so ignorant that they couldn't select the "correct" insult).

This was from strangers in the street as well as from people that I knew. I was told that my face wouldn't fit in at Brownies. I was beaten up by neighbourhood kids. My sister used to talc her face to try to appear paler. Often, I tried to hide or avoid situations, hoping people wouldn't notice me.

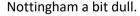
My mum says that as soon as I found out what University was, I decided that was for me. I realised that it was my way out. I was the first woman in my family to do this and is why I value education so much.

Why Manchester?

Remember Madchester?

In 1989, our music scene was world famous - The Smiths, Joy Division, New Order, Happy Mondays, Stone Roses. Music that I still listen to now, though my views on Morrissey have changed somewhat.

I checked out other cities too. I found London too overwhelming, Birmingham miserable (the accent doesn't help!),



I remember getting off the train at Piccadilly and by the time I'd reached Piccadilly Gardens I'd made my mind up that this was where I wanted to be

I remember the atmosphere "buzzing" and me feeling at home.
I enjoyed my student years here. Though now I'm middle-aged, I can understand the exasperation of the locals. I now find myself eye-rolling at some of the student antics!

My daughter loves Affleck's [Palace] and it makes me smile that they still sell "And on the sixth day God created Manchester" t-shirts, thirty years after they were first produced, which was when I bought mine there. I'm glad I stayed after Uni. I like that there's usually things to do and see, the radical history, creativity, diversity and relative tolerance. I wish I could say that I've not witnessed racism at all, but it still happens here. I'm proud to be an adopted-Manc and I can't think of anywhere else I'd rather be.

Elaine Loader

Ask me why I'm a Soroptimist

(We persuaded Elaine to be our 'young member', modelling the infamous T-shirt, on one of our publicity posters! Sue)

#### Cath Green

I am a Salfordian born and bred. I was born and brought up near Buille Hill Park. Looking back I realise we were poor and had nothing, but we were happy, loved and brought up with the right values.

I have seen the development of Salford throughout the years. I remember Salford Quays when it was the docks, the thick smog (you couldn't see a thing), lovely independent shops on Regent Road & Broad Street, the vibrant Cross Lane and Eccles Markets. 'Barmy Mick' was a lively character with a crockery stall on Cross Lane market. He wore long diamond earrings and used to juggle with plates and shouted out to all the women. We used to love watching him. I remember going to the toy shop on Regent Road and buying a yo-yo and skipping ropes with my birthday money. Another memorable trip was going into Manchester with my mum to Lewis's. We never normally shopped there, so it was a treat. I got a fairlisle cardigan and when we got out it was the thickest fog. We had to walk from Manchester to Salford.





My parents aspired to move into a better area, so we moved to Swinton when I was 7 . 8 years later with Government reorganisation Swinton became part of Salford. I was educated in Salford, then spent 1 year In Liverpool and 3 yrs in Birmingham. I returned to Salford to teach because they gave priority to employing teachers who had received a grant from them. I taught in a number of Salford Primary Schools and became Headteacher of

two. My passion was working children with special needs and those who came from deprived backgrounds.

The beautiful weather has been the magic antidote to us surviving lockdown. We have cycled, walked, walked the dog, painted pictures, painted the fences and shed, spent lots of time gardening and relaxing in the sun. We've been involved in quizzes, chats and murder mysteries on Zoom. The jobs indoors have been left for the rainy days. I am currently making scrubs for Hope Hospital, it is a challenge! We were devastated to cancel some special holidays, but we have stayed at home, followed the guidance and are safe.

I think I have learned that I don't need to be busy all the time, have been more relaxed taking each day as it comes, but am desperate to see my family and ready to restart my normal activities.

#### Cath Green

#### Malgorzata Kmita



I remember well, it was January the 17<sup>th</sup> in the year 1973..I arrived in Piccadilly Station after a short stay in London in order to explore my future studies and my life in Britain. I remember Manchester looking rather drab and neglected and I felt at first that I did not like the North of England.

However, in the Autumn of that year I started my studies in the Psychology Department of Manchester University, met friends, and began to bond with the city and its northern culture and accent.

I returned to Poland temporarily in 1974 only to find out how I missed my friends, fish and chips, the parks and the University life.

When I returned, I felt Manchester was the place for me and that was my first "Awakening" to my life in Manchester.

I eventually got married, had two children, did more studies and qualified as a Psychiatric Social Worker and got my first post in Hulme and Moss Side Social Services.

When I got my post at MRI, I remember having lunches at the Whitworth Art Gallery and it was then that I began to like and enjoy the city.

However, after a few years of working in Manchester a post came up at the Transcultural Psychiatry Unit in Bradford and as my interests were very much in the Transcultural work I moved with the Family and took up the post in Bradford, West Yorkshire.

Yorkshire became my county and I then worked in Leeds, and Barnsley where I wrote several Mental Health strategies to deal with mental health issues of adults, women, children and adolescents, children looked after and domestic violence challenges.

I remember those meetings in the mining communities of South Yorkshire and my interface with them as a Polish woman in Britain. It was very challenging indeed.

I was always interested in Mental Health and the international aspects of policies, good practices and NGOs. Having been a long standing Member of the World Federation for Mental Health and a long standing member of Mental Health Europe took me on another journey beyond Manchester, this time to Brussels where I became the President of Mental Health Europe. My activities involved many travels and journeys to Europe and beyond and when my Presidency was finished, we began to make plans to return to Manchester, this was in 2012. By then I was a qualified Integrative Psychotherapist with a varied and rich experience of Mental Health work.

2012 marked my third coming to Manchester, this time as a brilliant city full of vibrancy and life, culture and cosmopolitan trends. It was no longer a drab city of the North, it was a great city with hopes and a rich history and events.

I now live in Manchester, do a lot of voluntary work in Manchester, invite friends to share my biggest hobby, the garden and try to enjoy life in the city of my youth where I arrived in 1973 not knowing the journey of "many returns".

Being a Soroptimist in Manchester provided me with many friendships and cemented my bonds with the city that I love and feel most connected with. Although I do love Krakow, Gdansk, Brussels, York, Edinburgh.... It is in Manchester that I feel at home.

I could not see myself living anywhere else now, the Bridgewater Hall, the Home, the Whitworth and the City Art Galleries, the Cathedral and all the richness of Whalley Range give me a sense of belonging and a sense of completion of all my journeys in the UK, Europe and beyond.

I feel enriched by choosing Manchester as my city, my people and my culture.

### Malgorzata Kmita

#### Stella Kay

I was born in Manchester and I am a true Mancunian. I moved away during the war for 6 years to Lord Delamia's Estate at Vale Royal in the village of Whitegate in Cheshire. I returned to Manchester when the war ended. I joined Civil Service and I have lived here ever since. Perhaps not an exciting adventurous life but certainly a full and interesting one.



Stella Kay

#### Stella has been enjoying our Zoom socials thanks to her carer Agnes, but that is another story......



A carer? Who wants a Carer? Well, perhaps no one would like to admit to wanting a carer but it can happen that anyone may, at sometime, desperately need a Carer. Someone to help them through the normal ordinary functions of everyday life when it happens. One maybe elderly or perhaps not so much elderly as unfortunate. I, personally have come to a point at which I desperately needed a carer Having one can be most interesting experience. How are we going to get on together? What age should she be? What exactly would I want her to do for me? How are we going to get on together living in the same house and spending a great deal of time together? How do we select the ideal person? Frankly, I don't know but I think

that I have been very lucky in meeting the carer selected for me by the company I contacted. It's not totally a matter of chance but there's a certain amount of luck in who is available for selection as a Carer at the time required. So we are enjoying this ideal life together. I can't speak for my carer but for myself. The answer would be yes. No we don't always agree on everything but we agree to differ and have so far not come to blows.

Carer Agnes says.....In my 20 years' experience in England as a Carer, I've managed just a few clients slightly more difficult than Stella. In my opinion, a carer should respect the dignity of the client and help her retain her independence in her own home as much as possible. In the short period I've known the Soroptimist Organisation through Stella, I think your organisation is doing a great job to help Africa.

# Message from SIGBI Federation President Isobel



I am delighted to still be able to invite you to attend the **86th Soroptimist International of Great Britain and Ireland Conference** which will be broadcast from Belfast on the afternoons of 30<sup>th</sup> – 31st October 2020.

# Programme:

FRIDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2020 (13:30-17:00)

Welcome and Opening of Conference Greetings from International President Sharon Keynote Speaker: Lady Brenda Hale

Update on the Federation Project: Empowering Girls in Nepal

Federation Reports: Federation President Isobel Smith/Federation Director of Finance Ruth Healey

A Celebration of Membership Part 1: Soroptimists Rising to the Unique Challenges of 2020 showcasing how
Clubs/Regions/National Associations, Countries and members, have found new ways to stay connected, look after
each other and grow membership.

Keynote Speaker: Professor Susan Black (Title of talk: "If I can do it, so can you")

# SATURDAY 31st OCTOBER 2020 (13:30-17:00)

Opening of Second Day

A Celebration of Membership Part 2

Keynote Speaker: Dr Alison Gardner (Title of talk: "Building Communities that are Resilient to Modern Slavery")

**Programme Action Best Practice Awards** 

Keynote Speaker: Jane Garvey (Title of talk: 'Speaking Up')

Closing Ceremony: Change of Insignia & Farewell from Northern Ireland with Celtic Storm

# **Keynote Speakers:**

Brenda Hale is the most senior judge in the United Kingdom. After teaching law at the University of Manchester



for 18 years and then proposing reforms to the law at the Law Commission for over nine, she became a High Court Judge in 1994. In 1999 she was promoted to the Court of Appeal and in 2004 to the appellate committee of the House of Lords.

In 2009, this became the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom. She was appointed its Deputy President in 2013 and its first woman President in 2017. She is also President of the United Kingdom Association of Women Judges and a past President of the International Association of Women Judges. She was Treasurer of Gray's Inn in 2017 and Master of the Company of Fellmongers of Richmond, North Yorkshire.

Baroness Hale has been described (Times 29th September 2019) as: 'One of the most powerful women in Britain, and certainly the most prominent wearer of brooches'. She defines feminism as 'believing in equality, equality for women and the validity of women's experience.'

**Dr Alison Gardner** leads the Communities and Society research programme at the University of Nottingham's 'Rights Lab', a global research programme which aims to contribute to the UN's sustainable development goal 8.7 of ending slavery and forced labour by 2030.

She was the winner of the 2018 Marsh Prize for Community Activism in Combating Slavery, and named in the UK Top 100 Modern Slavery Influencers for 2018. Her work focusses on place and community-based responses to modern slavery, including campaigning work to develop slavery-free cities. She has career experience and expertise in local government and public policy.



**Jane Garvey** is the presenter of BBC Radio 4's Woman's Hour and co-presents the hit podcast Fortunately with Fi Glover. She presented the Sunday evening BBC 5 Live programme with Peter Allen. Jane also presents a wide range of documentaries for Radio 4 including the series, Summer Nights and The Lost World of the Suffragettes for BBC World Service.

Before she joined Radio 4 she co-presented Five Live's Drive Show on weekday afternoons on BBC Radio Five Live, for which she received Sony's News Broadcaster Award Gold Medal in 2002. Jane was the first voice on BBC Radio Five Live when it launched in March 1994, as co-presenter of the award-winning Breakfast Programme. As part of the station's 20th anniversary Jane presented a special programme. Outside of broadcasting, Jane has chaired events, including the Stratford Upon Avon Literary Festival as well as the Hay Literary Festival in 2019.



Dr Sue Black OBE was recently named in the list of top 50 women in tech in Europe, and winner of the Lifetime



Achievement Award at the Lovie Awards 2018. Sue is one of the leading tech personalities in the UK today.

An award-winning computer scientist, radical thinker, and social entrepreneur Sue is well known for founding the high profile campaign to save Bletchley Park, capitalising upon social media as a fitting continuation of Bletchley's technological legacy. Sue is a passionate advocate for women in tech, and has spent the last 20 years campaigning for more recognition and support for women in computing. This led to her founding #techmums, a social enterprise which empowers mums and their families through technology.

Sue is also an academic with 20+ years' experience with over 40 publications and a PhD in software engineering to her name. In 2017 she received the Social Impact ABIE Award at the Grace Hopper Celebration, was made an OBE in the New Year

Honours list 2016 and sits on the Government's new advisory board for improving digital services. Sue has joined the vibrant computer science department at Durham University as a Professor in Computer Science and Technology Evangelist. The role will combine her research interests, with the opportunity to inspire and motivate others in the field.

Recently Sue was interviewed by Kirsty Young on Desert Island Discs covering all things tech and how to "be your best self on social media" and appeared as a guest panellist in the special edition of Woman's Hour recorded live at the British Science Festival in Brighton. She has most recently featured in a video as part of the BBC Ideas online platform in which she tells her story and shares her advice for being successful and finding the superhero in yourself.

Conference Registration for the Belfast Virtual Conference is now OPEN https://sigbi.org/belfast2020/virtual-conference-registration/

(I have Registered! Sue)

Last year in Bournemouth......





#### Mental Health Awareness Week 2020

2020 Mental Health awareness week started on the 18 May 2020.

According to the Mental Health Foundation, the theme for this year is KINDNESS.

Relational kindness is a concept, experience, and practice to which I have devoted much of my personal and professional life. I have particularly been inspired by the ways of seeing and being of positive role models such as, for example, the Polish doctor and pedagogue Janusz Korczak who has provided me with perceptive insights and understandings of the nature of the human condition including approaches to the nurturing of children's physical, social, moral and cultural development, particularly during times of dramatic and traumatic change, together with the philosopher Martin Buber who, in his exploration of 'I – Thou' ways of relating and his profound understanding of how human relational processes can be encouraged and developed, have clearly illustrated how kindness plays a pivotal role in the experience of human flourishing.

So .... Beyond Mental Health Awareness Week, let us continue cultivating kindness in our hearts and minds and, whatever circumstances we face, we should never lose sight of the crucial importance and centrality of kindness in our daily lives. To be fully human is to be kind, loving, and relational.

Life is about kindness; it should not be primarily about seizing opportunities at the cost of others or about creating successfully coached, programmed or planned individuals who fit into the driven modern philosophy, model and stereotype of success and who, in the process of 'getting on', often miss out on the experience of kindness, authentic loving.

Positive human flourishing is characterised by kindness and love and, therefore, the world needs more people who are committed to such values: artists, poets, story tellers, compassionate activists, nurturing carers, scientists and technicians, friends and colleagues who put authenticity and love before pre-conceived, and perhaps conventional, ideas of 'success'.

Therefore: be authentic, be kind and be loving; simple and genuine; let us be persons of altruistic integrity. Let us create, encourage, and inspire relationships of genuine kindness and let us reach beyond ourselves and be outward looking. The world is waiting for each of us to play our part in helping to contribute to the process of bringing about the genuine change, the transformation, that is much needed.

Positive Mental Health and Wellbeing is a fundamental Human Right. The capacity for, and potential to, flourish, through our ability to relate, to love and to express authentic kindness, is a challenge to which we all can rise. Therefore, **KINDNESS** is the basis for our mental wellbeing and our future on this planet Earth.

Malgorzata Kmita, May 2020

& Malgorzata's Act Of Kindness During Lockdown.....







I opened our garden this spring and summer to people in the community and friends who live in flats without any garden space. Many people visited us with children or elderly relatives. This improved friendship and community cohesion and all distancing was observed during this Corona Virus time of challenge. Some people who came work for NHS or hospices, they came to spend their time in silence others played with children, others brought in their ageing parents.... They were very grateful to escape the confines of their flats or bedsits. It feels good to share hospitality in your community. I love this garden and even more when we can share it with others.

Malgorzata

#### Shena's 'Stay Home' Story (& Visitors)

For me, "Stay Home" actually began on 13<sup>th</sup> January when I broke my leg. I had a superb physio who came to my home two days every week. I could not manage stairs so Barry had a new, cheap bed installed downstairs in the middle of the lounge. I really loved that comfortable room but Cath, my physio, made me work hard! After four weeks, I could manage to go upstairs so we decided to sell the bed but then thought it could always be a bed for downstairs if ever needed again!! This single bed now lives under another bed upstairs so it might be a while before I can hoover underneath!

At the beginning of March Barry and I attended the celebration of the Club's 94<sup>th</sup> Charter Dinner – the first time I had had an evening out since New Year. What a wonderful occasion it was.

I had not even started driving yet, due to my leg, when suddenly the enemy of Coronavirus Covid 19 created a minimum of 12 weeks of isolation and anxiety (or even more!!). So it means remaining in our home, not even leaving to get essentials, asking for food deliveries to be left outside the door but, above all, not seeing our two grandchildren, Tom and Harry.

Now ladies, help me. Could you think how to manage my hair? I think it will be Christmas before I can have it cut and my colour done. As for my eyebrows .... well .... and as for my lip and chin! However, I just think everybody will be the same and true beauty will show through!

Although generally a terrible situation, it is a happy time in the garden. Around six weeks ago, there was a tap on the door. It was our lady duck who had arrived in our garden around the same time in 2019. She had made a nest beside our front door



and produced ten eggs. What a wonderful mother. She particularly likes Barry. On 22<sup>nd</sup> April, she came out with eight babies and went down to the pond but, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> we noticed that three had gone. Then yesterday she made

a dreadful noise and all had gone. Fox? Birds? We are so sad but life is not easy.......BUT after around 3 weeks, another 10 eggs! Perhaps this is her second husband? She came here last year on the same area, beside the front door. You will see her under all the plants and her drink is on the blue plate. She loves Barry and walks all around him and eats from his hand. (washed well!!)

Over the years I have so enjoyed receiving this Newsletter and I cannot believe that I have read all 73 issues. Kathleen and Maureen worked so hard and now Sue. Keep in touch and keep safe.

# Shena Cuttle

#### Look What I Found!

'Stay at Home' for me has been quite enjoyable! At the beginning, I made a list of tasks and projects....but I have managed to happily avoid doing most of them! My main housework & task avoidance techniques include taking a friend's dog Ollie for a walk twice a day (you will never convince me that there are 7 hours available between these outings!), Zooming (a new verb apparently!) with Soroptimists and friends and volunteering as a new Trustee for Act4Africa. But, in one of the mammoth filing exercises I found this 'Toast to the City & Ports of Manchester 2003 Charter Dinner'. I was only President Elect that year but stepped in when President Fiona was ill. I had to decide on a theme and took my inspiration from the 'Attitude of Manchester' exhibition at the newly refurbished Art Gallery and wrote it late one night in a hotel room in Tunbridge Wells! So 17 years on, here it is.....



What do I know about the City & Ports of Manchester? After all I've only been here 10 minutes, well 10 years actually, but it often takes a newcomer to appreciate what they've found – notice I didn't say 'outsider', I've never felt that, Manchester seems to open its arms in welcome & then gently draw you into the enigma.

Manchester welcomes people from all over the world – the triumph of last year's Commonwealth Games being testament to just how good at it we are! Mancunians came forward in droves volunteering to help, keen to contribute to the success of this amazing project ....even Coronation Street's Norris 'did his bit'! 'Belonging' in Manchester seems to have more to do with 'attitude of mind' than with race, colour, creed or where you were born.....it is assumed that you are here because you want to be.

Back in 1912, Judge John Parry in his book 'What the Judge Saw', wrote that ......

'Manchester is the place where people do things .....'Don't talk about what you're going to do, do it'

That is the Manchester habit ......to do and to think without shackles'

OK, now we may call it 'thinking outside of the box', but Manchester has been at it for centuries!

Renowned for Radical Thinkers, Mavericks & Trendsetters, it's the people that give this city its edge.

Back in the 1840's the Manchester Industrialists challenged the landowners & aristocracy by forming the Anti Corn Law League. They fought a focused campaign, resulting in the repeal of the Corn Laws, lowering the price of bread & freeing their growing trade from tariffs...... The modern political movement was born.

In pursuit of Votes for Women, Manchester's Emmeline Pankhurst founded the Women's Social & Political Union in 1903 (Yes, 100 years ago!). 3 years later, with the slogan 'Deeds not Words' they became known as Suffragettes after the Women's Suffrage movement that had also been founded in Manchester some 30 years earlier.

#### Is it Manchester that gives you the attitude, or the attitude that brings you to Manchester?

In 1877 Belle Vue bought Maharajah the Elephant from Edinburgh Zoo, but Maharajah smashed his way out of the railway carriage built to transport him, so he & his keeper, Lorenzo, had to walk the 200 miles.

(I don't know how long it took them, but thanks to the roadworks on the M6, probably not too much longer than it takes today!)

At a tollgate the gatekeeper began to argue with Lorenzo about the charge for an elephant to use the road. Well Maharajah needed to 'get on' so he curled his trunk round the gate, lifted it gently off its hinges & continued his journey.

When the people of Manchester heard this tale they welcomed this elephant-with-attitude to their city..... recognising a kindred spirit perhaps?

Mancunians don't see obstacles, just challenges!

I first came to Manchester as a consequence of what turned out to be a disastrous career move – friends old & new helped me through the 'character building' nightmare, but leaving town was somehow never an option – I was under the spell.

Recently, in my day job, after a particularly tasking project, I was praised for my no-nonsense, can-do attitude ............ does this make me a worthy Mancunian or an honorary elephant? ('No, just a good Soroptimist' came from the floor!)

Manchester has the mantle of the 'World's first Industrial City' ......

In 1783 Arkwright set up the first steam powered mill on Miller Street in the city centre & paved the way for mass production techniques.

In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, John Dalton's atomic theory was the precursor of all modern chemistry, whilst his lectures on meteorology turned the study of the weather into a science .... Forgive me, but all I can think of is 'you've got an 'ology!?!' (Remember Maureen Lipman's BT adverts?)

Later in the century, Manchester's business men would no longer tolerate Liverpool's commercial monopolies and the resulting strangle-hold on Manchester's Trade.

But what could a land locked city do?? Of course .....Dig a 36 mile canal – width & depth as required – over or under any obstacle, sorry, challenge that got in the way!

As the Centenary Walkway plaque reminds us ...'To let the sea flow in.....34,000 hands moved 52 million tons of land' ......Now I doubt that you could get much further out of 'the box' than that.........

But it was down to the people to make the docks work. Now Manchester had to lure ships away from using Liverpool docks, but it would be adding about 12 hours canal sailing time...... so the dockers worked to unload & reload ships faster to compensate....... the saving in transport costs, being so much further inland covered the costs of using the canal, £100 in 1894.....sorry, once an accountant.......

Quality of life has never been neglected in Manchester either.....

Phillips Park, Queens Park & Peel Park, all opened in 1846, were the first municipal parks & keeping up the tradition, towards the end of the last century (1982!) Castlefield opened as Britain's first Urban Heritage Park

Manchester led the way in bringing pure fresh water into a crowded city when the Longdendale reservoirs were opened in the 1850's

But way before any of this, in 1653, perhaps the nation's first free public library was opened as Chetham's Library .........& it's still independent, public & free ........but our Guest Speaker knows far more about this topic than I do! (he is a 'feffy' or trustee)

By the bye.....

Manchester's Mr Royce met Mr Rolls in the Midland Hotel

Marks & Spencers opened their first store in Manchester – Leeds only had the Market Stall!

Apparently Manchester is the home of the Lonely Hearts Club! Helen Morrison was perhaps the first Briton to advertise for a husband, back in 1727 in the Manchester Weekly Advertiser – but there again she did finish up in a lunatic asylum!!

And did you know that in the new Hulme Park, we have a UFO Landing Pad, located on suitable ley lines of course. I should imagine that your incredulity matches that towards the Manchester Ship Canal Project!

& where else has a monument to Vimto?

Yes, Manchester really does have everything except a beach!

Sue Underwood

# Out And About With The Mayor Of Trafford

I am very fortunate to count Councillor Rob Chilton among my friends so I was delighted when he was appointed Mayor of Trafford in May last year – the youngest person ever to be in the role. He is a great friend of our Club, too.

I am also lucky to have been amongst his group of "supporting ladies" (mostly ladies of a certain age!) who accompanied him on his various mayoral duties. Here we are celebrating his inauguration at Trafford Tow



mayoral duties. Here we are celebrating his inauguration at Trafford Town Hall last year.

My first official duty was to attend a Chinese Dragon Boat Festival hosted by the



Wai Yin Society. It was a hugely entertaining event that took place on a cold and rainy morning on Salford Quays. Amongst the other guests of honour were the Lord



Lieutenant of Manchester, the Lord Mayor of Manchester, the Chief Constable and the Mayor of Stockport, Councillor Laura Booth – a potential Soroptimist.

By complete contrast, our next outing was to watch Urmston Musical Theatre Juniors performing 'High School Musical' (the junior version) An energetic production by some extremely talented young people.

The highlight of September, and indeed possibly the whole year, was our attendance at the launch of Black History



Month at Manchester Cathedral. We were in the presence of the great and the good from across Greater Manchester, but I was just star struck to meet Mike Shaft who was compering the evening!





In October, we were the guests of Trafford's Bahá'í Community at Sale Waterside, who were celebrating the bicentenary of the birth of their founder, the Báb. This was a fascinating and enlightening evening. My November duties took place all on one day and it was certainly a day of contrasts! In the morning, we attended the Manchester Youth Karate

Championships at the Soccerdome in Trafford Park, followed by an afternoon celebrating the feast of All Souls with the local Grenadian

community at St Alphonsus RC Church, Old Trafford. That challenged the wardrobe a bit!

I have also been a member of Rob's Charities committee during his time in office. Rob's chosen charities are the Alex Hulme Foundation, Manchester Foundation Trust Charity and the Society for Abandoned Animals (SAA). We have had several fundraising events including coffee mornings, quiz nights and bingo sessions, and of course Rob has attended fundraising events for each of the charities. This picture was taken at the SAA's Christmas Fair. I would like to point out that I was on duty as an SAA volunteer!



My final engagement of 2019 was a very relaxed social event with Altrincham Chamber of Commerce, entitled Christmas and all that Jazz.

Steve and I attended the Mayor's Civic Reception held at the Waterside in Sale, but my first official outing of 2020 came in February when we visited a local care home to meet staff and residents. The home is a new purpose-built facility catering for a whole range of needs, from those wishing to live independently to those with a high level of

dependency. Beautifully designed and thought out.

Our final event, before lockdown curtailed Rob's activities, was the Sale Scouts Cooking Competition. The participants had to choose a country and prepare an appropriate menu. They were judged on the quality of the food of course, but also



presentation and teamwork. There were menus from Greece, India, Ireland, Italy, Mexico and the USA but the



Turkish menu was the unanimous winner. The risotto dish on the Italian menu was to die for though!

One of the perks of attending events with the Mayor is that you never have to worry about transport or parking! Rob had two wonderful attendants, Tony and Matt, who take turns to act as his chauffeur but whose real role is to take care of the mayoral chain! One thing I learned very early on was that I MUST NOT open the car door to let myself in or out. Nothing to do with old fashioned chivalry – just a security measure to ensure no one jumps in the car to nick the chain!

Rob has been a tremendously hardworking Mayor and it has been a privilege to share some of his year in office with him. I have learned so much about the culture, diversity, and achievements of the Borough of Trafford, and of course, there were plenty of opportunities to talk about Soroptimism too. Rob remains in office until probably October or November so there may be more to come – watch this space.....

#### Barbara Blaber

#### Post 'Victory in Europe' Baby!

I was born in the Autumn of 1945 to a childhood where our local town's landscape included bombed out houses, neglected Anderson shelters and many hastily erected prefabs (emergency housing stock). The post war era of my childhood was very different to what we take for granted now. I clearly remember food rationing and ration books as it wasn't until 1954 that rationing finally ended. Sweet points and the availability of sugar ensured that childhood obesity and widespread dental decay in children did not feature as a problem for the newly formed created NHS. Horrors included omelettes made with dried egg, spam served endlessly and on high days and holidays the treat of chicken. As children we received free school milk which I hated and to ensure in the absence of little fresh fruit a daily dose of cod liver oil in the evening was something I dreaded. Choice of clothes was very limited and my mother sat peddling on her singer sewing machine converting old clothes and disused blackout curtains and how often my arms ached holding unravelled skeins of wool which she rewound into balls to create new garments as we all wore home knitted sweaters.

I was seven when in the excitement of a new 14inch black and white TV in a huge cabinet was purchased by my father to enable our family (and lots of neighbours sitting on the living room floor) to watch the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. I remember it poured down all day but the Saturday after, a sunny day, we had a street party all dressed in red white and blue with paper crowns on our heads. Hot Summers (few fridges) cold Winters (no central heating) and caravan holidays in England (no package tours) were the norm. No shops open on Sundays no supermarkets just the co-ops and lots of corner shops with butter in barrels and large joints of bacon being cut on slicing machines. Sweets were in large glass jars and were weighed out in individual packets of two or four ounces.

Cinemas had special Saturday afternoon children's matinees with lots of western films featuring our favourite cowboys. We played in streets without a care in the world, skipping ropes, tops and whips and hopscotch chalked on pavements when weather permitted. On cold Winter evenings and rainy caravan Summer holidays we played snap, happy families and board games whilst listening on the radio to the Archers and Two Way Family Favourites which linked overseas servicemen to their families as national service continued well into the 50's and oh the excitement to tuning into radio Luxembourg.

No mobile phones, lap tops or social media how did we manage? We went to Sunday school joined the brownies had piano lessons and did our homework as we studied towards the dreaded 11 plus. Teachers were very strict with large class sizes and no teaching assistants, they also wielded canes which were used even in primary schools.

We honoured our strict but loving parents who had themselves lived as children through the first world war, the depression in the 20's and most of whom had served in the second world war. My childhood was in a time of great postwar austerity, healthy diets and neighbourly collective courageous spirit. It was also an era of welfare reform and restructuring with hopeful glimpses of the modern world to come.

### Rosemary Steven (President)

# New Hope, Orissa, India from Eliazar Rose's Facebook Posts:



17<sup>th</sup> June with Srinu Srinu
WE ARE NOW HAVING SUFFICIENT HONEY FOR
THE CHILDREN TO HAVE TEASPOON ALMOST
EVERY DAY AND TO SELL A SURPLUS.- self
sufficiency - income generating - Achieved goal
with sheer determination of Srinu. Rs250 for
500 gram at gate (lockdown – can't come in to
buy!. Ramu has not been able to help as he is
Lockdown too. This small start-up project has
just grown by careful and hard work. Srinu has
two junior helpers - Pintu - Has no fear and the
bees sense it!. Building shade covers now.
Eliazar New Hope India - so happy



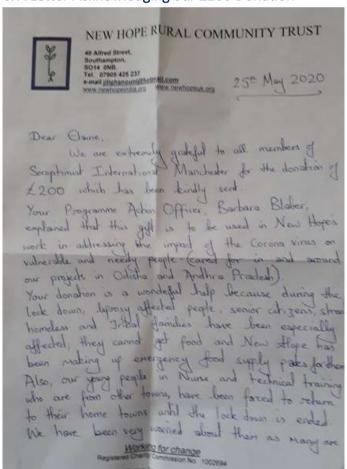


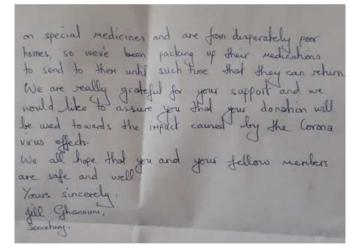
28<sup>th</sup> June
We have been 'saved'
by the garden. Sufficient
that we have reduced
vegetable cost by 75%
and put some into
freezer. Hard work by
Srinu who had all of the
girls there helping out,



weeding, picking, storing. It was also a great activity to the distraction of 'Lockdown'! The NORWEGIAN GARDEN and behind it the Maggie sister crop of corn was just beyond words. Un-named volunteers made the support to Srinu with Tiller, Frames, Irrigation, Water Tanks - Thanks - Ruth and Eliazar..

# & A Letter Acknowledging our £200 Donation







Many thanks to Barbara for keeping us well informed with the Programme Action Newsletters

....including Viv Vesper!

We've kept in touch with Zoom Socials & Meetings.....& hopefully recruited some new Members!





# Sriya has recently circulated the 'Latest News' from the Fair Trade Foundation:



With 2020 set to be the **hottest year on record**, it's more important than ever that our community stands with the farmers and workers on the front line of the climate crisis. **Choosing Fairtrade** is one really important way we can do that – as <u>our new film explains</u>

We need to spread the word that farmers and workers across the Global South did the **least to cause the climate crisis** but are living with its **worst effects** already.

Without decent incomes, too many are struggling to adapt to rising temperatures, volatile weather patterns and increasingly common plant diseases.

As well as a fairer income, Fairtrade offers training and support on sustainable farming techniques.

Combined with our eco-friendly Fairtrade Standards, which includes biodiversity protection, you know when you choose Fairtrade, you're taking meaningful action to address this truly global problem.

But we know **Fairtrade alone won't solve the climate crisis**. That's why we're part of the **Climate Coalition**, a UK-wide group of charities, businesses and campaign groups committed to pushing national and international governments for historic action on climate change.

Over the next few months, we'll be joining them in calling for international commitments to a green and fair recovery from the coronavirus pandemic, and real commitments ahead of the UK's hosting of the COP26 UN Climate Summit next year. In the meantime, you can find out more about the Climate Coalition's work, and sign their declaration, on their website.

Choose the world you want to see. And don't forget to <u>watch and share our new Fairtrade and climate short film!</u> Fairtrade Foundation, Supporters Team

# Introducing Fabiola Bayavuge who joined us last year....

Fabiola is a Modern Slavery Project Coordinator working with AFRUCA. She designed and implemented the Modern Slavery Project for partnership work AFRUCA-Manchester City Council. She is passionate about community engagement and empowerment; and safeguarding against any abuse. She has worked with Public Health England for 12 years, designed and implemented Sexual Health/HIV prevention campaigns for Black and Minority Ethnics and LGBT in the UK and more in Greater Manchester. She is a member of the UKCAB, a national group to advocate for HIV treatment for all. She has done consultancy work for Global Fund in Dakar-Senegal on: *Measuring service availability at health facility level (Malaria, TB and HIV)*. She has expertise in research around Gender



Based Violence and in sexual Health. She is curious about world cultures and loves travelling, sport, cooking and dancing. Fabiola speaks Kirundi, Kinyarwanda, Swahili, French, English, Italian and basic in both German and Lingala. *Fabiola Bayavuge* 

# Guide Bridge Theatre is proud to have been awarded a Queen's Award for Voluntary Service



I was delighted to be informed on the 30th of June by our member *Dr Margaret Cropper* that the Guide Bridge Theatre in Audenshaw had been awarded the prestigious Queen's award for Voluntary Service. This is the highest award given to local volunteer groups in recognition of outstanding work in local communities, it is one of only



200 organisations in the U.K. to be recognised in this way.

When Margaret was for several years our club's Programme Action Officer, the theatre,

with which she and her husband Bill had long association, kindly allowed us to use the venue free of charge for meetings and for preparatory work for some of our service initiatives.

Bill, an extremely talented amateur actor, has since 1972 been a life president of this unique venue.

Congratulations to Margaret and all the hard working volunteers for achieving this recognition. Well deserved!! **President Rosemary** 

**Copy** for the next edition of the Newsletter by **Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> September**, please.

Personal anecdotes always welcome.

How are you managing 'Lockdown'?

Tell your 'Stay At Home' story!

Have you told us about your 'Journey to Manchester'?

What have you learned about yourself & others?

Send in your 'Memories of Members' and 'Last Words'
New Members please introduce yourselves!

Sue Underwood

# Last Words ....... from Women, Men and a bear, who could/should have been Soroptimists!









