



Winter 2021 Issue 79



President: **Rose Marginson**

Dear Club Members,

Serendipity led me to the box containing Mum's 'British Legion stuff' just after I'd realised that Soroptimist International was not the only organisation celebrating its Centenary, so I felt that I had to include her talk on the Royal British Legion, and that led me to the other 'connection' of Soroptimists and the National Memorial Arboretum that is part of the Royal British Legion...all part of the Newsletter 'journey'!

I hope that you enjoy your Newsletter and your Christmas!

Sue Underwood



President's Message – President Rose Marginson

The club has had a busy few months and I've been delighted to be able to visit Emmeline's Pantry, MASH,



President Rose

WomenMATTER and the Coppice Library Well-Being gardening group. On each occasion the club has donated goods or vouchers to the charities, for the women who access their help and services.

It was a lovely occasion at the Coppice Library when we donated two Hawthorne trees to celebrate the Centenary of Soroptimist International on a very cold day. I was very grateful for the hot drinks provided.

We've had a social lunch, a fundraising coffee morning - thank you to everyone who supported it - and welcomed a new member Alison.

I'm looking forward to 2022 and wish everyone a great Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful New Year.



We've struggled with fundraising this year because of the Covid limitations so it was nice to plan a fundraising coffee morning at my house with of course a raffle. In the end not many could attend but due to so many kind donations from our



members £170 was raised. This will go into our charity funds.

Those of us who got together enjoyed the chat. I certainly enjoy seeing people and meeting up. Mental health has been a big problem during the lockdowns for many people so any social contact now feels like a bonus. I am forward to many more fundraising opportunities next year.

Great to get a chance to meet for a social lunch - Friendship is so much a part of being a Soroptimist.

President Rose presented new member Alison at our Christmas party, it was the first time she had been with us all
(Alison introduced herself in the last Newsletter)



Emmeline's Pantry Visit

Recently President Rose and club members Susan, Barbara & Val, went to visit Emmeline's Pantry, an organisation we have been supporting for several years. Emmeline's Pantry started life as a foodbank in the basement of the Pankhurst Centre but now has its own premises in the outskirts of the city. This has given them the opportunity to expand their services and develop new ones.



With the help of Manchester Urban Diggers (MUD), the land around the new centre has been developed into a community garden, aptly called the **Pankhurst Plot**. The garden has areas for growing flowers and vegetables, as well as a children's activity area, a sensory garden and an outdoor seating area where staff and volunteers can relax. A haven of nurture, creativity and fun.

The foodbank goes from strength to strength, with regular donations from Foodshare and a number of other charitable and corporate organisations in the area. The centre has had to amend its practices to cope with COVID regulations but its clients continue to receive an excellent service.

Our visit concluded with the handover of our annual donation of pyjamas which will be given as Christmas gifts to service users.

We are proud to support this wonderful organisation
Barbara Blaber



Planting Trees For A Brilliant Future

On Monday November 29th, we joined thousands of women across the world who have been celebrating 100 years of Soroptimist International by **Planting Trees for a Brilliant Future**. Coinciding with National Tree Week in the UK, we planted Hawthorns at Coppice Library and Wellbeing Centre in Sale.

Rebecca, Coordinator of the Wellbeing Gardening Group, had researched some of the history and folklore surrounding the Hawthorn and shared this wonderful piece:

When hawthorn appears, it brings a message of hope and healing for our heart on both the physical and emotional level. This could signal the beginning of a new relationship or adventure. When we open our hearts and minds to what is possible, we soon discover that we are not alone on our journey. Hawthorn cleanses the heart of negativity and replenishes the body through nourishment. Hawthorn encourages us to feel renewed and refreshed as we venture forward on our journey through life.



Our thanks go to the Coppice Library and Wellbeing Centre and the Wellbeing Gardening Group for hosting us and the trees!



***National Tree Week** is the UK's largest annual tree celebration and is held at the start of the winter tree planting season each year.

***Our trees were purchased from [The Woodland Trust](#)**

Barbara Blaber



Our October Club Speaker:

We first met Rebecca Schofield when she came to tell us about the **Coppice Library Wellbeing Garden Group**.

She talked about her own life and the work being done at the garden, helping people with mental health worries .

[#mentalhealthmatters](#) .

A View Of Llandudno 2021 From My Kitchen Table

This year I attended my very first annual SIGBI Conference in Llandudno. Whilst I felt some disappointment in not having the chance to meet fellow Soroptimists face-to-face, I was absolutely delighted with the content, passion and commitment I experienced from fellow members and the speakers.

I would like to convey some of the wisdom of the first Keynote Speaker, Dr Anne-Marie Imafidon MBE. Dr Imafidon is an extraordinarily talented woman in the field of Mathematics - at 20 she was one of the youngest ever to receive a Masters Degree in Mathematics and Computer Science from the University of Oxford. She co-founded a social-enterprise called Stemettes, which works to inspire and support young women and non-binary people in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths careers. It is unsurprising to me that she features among the top 10 BAME leaders in technology by the Financial Times. If you are on Instagram, I encourage you to follow her: @notyouraverageami.

It was fascinating to hear Dr Imafidon explore discrimination in areas such as product design. She gave an example of seat belts that are designed for a male body. Research shows that women tend to suffer more grievous injuries than men in car crashes because seat belts have been designed around the average male body. Dr Imafidon's example reminded me that we have so much to do in terms of the rights of women and girls. If this interests you, I recommend the book "*Invisible Women*" by Caroline Criado Perez which explores the gender data gap - from government policy and medical research, to technology, workplaces, urban planning and the media - the data that informs decisions exclude women creating an invisible male bias.



Another area on which Dr Imafidon touched were the women of science, technology, engineering and maths who have been forgotten in a predominantly white, male history. She spoke of Hedy Lamarr, Marie-Sophie Germain, Sarah Guppy, Katherine Johnson and Gladys West - all extraordinary women to whom we owe a great deal, but who are also largely invisible in the history books. I agreed with her that it is important to shine a light on these women, especially women of colour: the history we have been given in school is incomplete!

Dr Imafidon's talk was titled "Doing a lot with a little". She raised a number of points about doing more with a limited or non-existent budget:

1. Galvanising the power of social media.

As a club, we are now on all the main social media platforms and our Instagram account (@soroptimistmanchester - which we started last month) already has 370 followers. Nonetheless, this is an area where we may look to do more in future because whilst it costs us some time in creating content, it is free in a financial sense. Some of our social media posts for #16DaysOfActivism have been 'liked' by over 60 people - not only does social media increase the audience for our messages, but we also reach women who may be interested in joining us or their local Club.

2. Stronger Together.

Dr Imafidon also talked about working with others: "*there are so many of us.. if we go together we go further*". I am very proud of the fact that Manchester Soroptimists work with other groups. Over the coming years we might look to creating and developing relationships with other groups, in particular groups who share our values such as other Soroptimist clubs and women's campaigning groups. We are all volunteers and juggle many things in our daily lives, but spreading the load we have more impact.

3. Inclusive spaces.

I am very proud of the fact I feel a very strong desire in our Club to be as inclusive as we can. Our membership is diverse in a multi-faceted way. It is so important that we continue this strong commitment to inclusivity, and reflect periodically on what we can do better. "*We need fewer dead white male scientists with beards!*" Dr Imafidon explained. I quite agree - and by the same token, the more diverse the voices in our club, the better we will do.

It was quite extraordinary to feel part of a collective movement of women around the world doing such extraordinary work to advance the rights of women and girls. I am looking forward to the conference in Belfast next year already!

Carina Badger

Making the most of a virtual SIGBI Conference 2021

The SIGBI annual conference is a highlight of the Soroptimist year. It gives Soroptimists the opportunity to meet long standing friends from all areas of the federation and to make new friends. And to spend quality time with our fellow club members. We learn about what is happening with Programme Action in other clubs. We can meet face to face with friendship link clubs.

The speakers are well chosen to deliver well planned, extremely interesting and well illustrated talks about the successes they have had in their careers and lives. They are truly inspirational.

We leave conference feeling energised and get an excellent sense of belonging to a global organisation which is making a difference for women and children.

The officers of SI Yorkshire decided to get as many interested members together as possible to have a shared conference. A comfortable hall was booked for the 2 days of the conference and a large screen made available so everybody in the room could follow the conference - 25 members on Friday and 35 on Saturday. Coffee, tea and biscuits kept us going through the mornings and sandwiches were brought in for lunch. Dinner on Friday evening was a very enjoyable affair before some went home and others transferred to the bar in the hotel!!!



Following the Change of Insignia members changed and went to the Yorkshire Party where the newly installed Regional President was greeted with the waving of the white roses and given a royal welcome.

A virtual conference doesn't promote quite the same experience as usual. We missed meeting all the members we had got to know from other regions. There wasn't the same atmosphere you get when over 1000 women get together. There wasn't the buzz like in the auditorium when the flags are paraded in or when the speakers come on to the platform. We weren't quite as disciplined about being in our seats listening as when the conference chair brings us all to order. But joining Yorkshire members to share the conference was the next best experience and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Roll on next year hopefully in Belfast and back to normal.....

Val Jenkins



SIGBI's 88th Federation Conference is being held in Belfast from 27th to 29th October 2022.

The conference will be held in the improved and extended ICC, Belfast. This will be the first physical face-to-face conference since Bournemouth 2019 and we hope everyone will be pleased to get together again. And Belfast is just the city to do that.

The Conference Committee is busy planning a vibrant Conference to enthuse and excite everybody.

The theme of the Conference is '**Climate for Change**' and we have four dynamic Keynote Speakers (focusing on Education, Health, Environment/Climate and Women (gender equality)) together with Programme Action and Membership workshops. Of course, we also have sessions managed by our Programme and Membership Teams.

<https://sigbi.org/belfast2022/>

News & Christmas Greetings From Our International Friendship Links

SI Grosse Point, USA:

Nancy Solak, the Friendship Link Coordinator from Grosse Point, Michigan, USA writes:

.. how much they enjoyed reading our summer/autumn edition of SI Manchester Newsletter and our friends in Grosse Point were very impressed with our 95th Anniversary of SI Manchester. Their Club just celebrated their 65th Anniversary and we wished them well. They loved our idea of “Hug in a Mug” and our climate related article. They have never heard of “greenwashing” before. Members are curious about the concept of **Honorary Life Members**, Malgorzata will be writing to Nancy about this in due course and it is lovely to have our newsletter appreciated and read. It is good to share news and ideas. Thank you for your feedback Nancy.

SI Johannesburg, South Africa

Club members for SI Johannesburg.

We held a lovely end of year function at the home of Carole Hadfield yesterday. It has been a difficult year for the club due to the Covid pandemic and all the associated lockdown measures. However, the mood was very buoyant yesterday and we look forward to a good year for Soroptimism in 2022.

Kind regards and stay safe

Mary Scholes



We wish all the Club members of Manchester everything of the best for the Festive Season and the New Year.

SI Essen Victoria, Germany:

Anne-Dore from SI Essen Victoria in Germany writes:

... a couple of weeks ago we had a very interesting article in an Essen Newspaper. The Regional Association Ruhr (RVR) and the Region of Greater Manchester have signed a memorandum of understanding with Essen to cooperate closer and to develop “future projects”. SI Essen Victoria Sister Felicitas has already contacted relevant people about our Friendship Link.

Malgorzata Kmita SI Manchester is going to contact Cllr Elsie Wilson from Stockport Council who is involved in Greater Manchester/Ruhr, Germany with a view to involve SI Manchester Club in developing a joint project with SI Essen Victoria in support of Greater Manchester and the Regional Association Ruhr establishing basis for strong cooperation. More information to follow. Our Friendship and exchange visit to Essen in 2019 may have long standing ripple effects. We send our best wishes to all our friends in Essen Victoria Club.



***Dear Soroptimist Friends,
warmest greetings from your friend and sisters from
SI-Essen Victoria back to SI- Manchester.
We hope, that you are well despite of Covid 19 and we
will be able to arrange a visit in Manchester in 2022
ore 2023.
With best wishes for Christmas and a happy new year***

***Beatrix Kuntze
SI-Essen Victoria President***

Gdansk, Poland:

Maria Banaszak who is the SI Gdansk President wrote to us in October and invited us to participate in an online event celebrating 30th Anniversary of Soroptimists in Poland.

Malgorzata attended the full event on the 6th of November on behalf of SI Manchester Club.

The title of this event was “Women, Solidarity, Diversity and Inclusion” and it showed the journey through different cities in Poland, which included Olsztyn, Gdansk, Slupsk, Wroclaw, Katowice, Bielsko Biala, Krakow and Warsaw. The Soroptimist Movement in Poland started in the 1990s founded and initiated by Danuta Piatek and marked a



as international projects across different continents. Polish Soroptimists are very proud and they say “We stand up for Women” and “We support Women’s Rights”. There are over 21,000 Soroptimists in Poland and we wish them



well for the next 30 years and beyond. Our thanks go to Maria Banaszak for sending us the invitation. It was a great celebration of women, for women and with women who are achieving and supporting so much during this challenging time.



***Wesołych Świąt i
Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku***



***Wishing all our Friendship Links a very happy Season of lights, joy and Peace.
Hoping for a healthier and safer 2022.
From us all at SI Manchester
I look forward to our 2022 Correspondence.
Malgorzata Kmita***

I Challenge You to 'Guess The Member' – *Answers during our January Club Meeting!*

(1)

Main reason you became a Soroptimist?	I happened to sit next to a Soroptimist on a train journey to Leeds, who was on her way back from the annual conference in Liverpool and heard all about it... Then when I looked up where in Manchester my local group was... 2 miles away... I thought it was meant to be!
Snack you always have in your desk or handbag!	Cereal bar
What did you want to be when you were growing up and why?	I had no clue!
What makes you excited to get out of bed in the morning?	Since Lockdown, I have been doing a pilates class on zoom 4 mornings a week... That makes me get out of bed, looking forward to stretching and strengthening as a positive start to my day
Best vacation yet?	Best vacation yet... Jordan... So good I've been twice! The Rose City of Petra, Camping out at Wadi Rum (where they filmed Lawrence of Arabia) and floating in the Dead Sea... Highly recommended!
Future dream vacation?	Dream Destination... St Lucia.. I've never been to the Caribbean, I'd love to see bananas, coconuts, cocoa and avocado growing, it looks like a wonderful and lush island... One day!
Something else exciting, interesting, or unusual about you that we could not know!	I lived and worked in Cairo for a year
(1) Who Is She?????	

(2)

Main reason you became a Soroptimist?	To make a difference
Snack you always have in your desk or handbag!	Nuts
What did you want to be when you were growing up and why?	In the Navy so I could travel around the world
What makes you excited to get out of bed in the morning?	Going for rides on my Motorcycle
Best vacation yet?	Best: Staying in a Yoga retreat in India
Future dream vacation?	Future: Going on Safari
Something else exciting, interesting, or unusual about you that we could not know!	I'd love to study nutritional therapy so I can not only understand my own body better but potentially help others who have a diagnosis of obesity or Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD), something I have a lot of experience with.
(2) Who Is She?????	

Tenerife Nightmare

Our planned two week holiday in Tenerife for New Year 20/21 was deferred until April, then cancelled again due to COVID. However under the rules of our holiday package provider, we were required to rebook within the year or lose our money. We chose to travel at the end of October to enable us to celebrate my November birthday in the sun.



It was our seventh visit to our well tried and tested hotel in Tenerife (Los Gigantes) which had opened four weeks earlier after a closure of twenty months due to COVID. It had changed significantly (in our opinion and that of many repeat guests) in many aspects for the worse. All problems were blamed on COVID by the hotel management. I led a charge and eventually met with the hotel Director of Quality. I informed him that, with great regret, we would never be back! The company representative was very aware of the general dissatisfaction of guests as I bid her goodbye (I have known her for many years) the night before we were due to depart. The only fantastic thing was the weather as we had fourteen days of blue skies and endless sunshine.

Cases packed, travel clothes ready we were about to leave our room for our final dinner when Gus bent forward to sort his medication when he froze and screamed in agony. He simply could not move with extremely acute back pain. At my request the hotel summoned a doctor who arrived quickly and injected him with pain control and muscle relaxants and prescribed oral medication. An horrendous night resulted in me at 6am cancelling the 9 o'clock taxi to the airport and also contacting the emergency holiday provider number, who were most unhelpful saying we could not defer our flight and we must vacate our accommodation in the morning as our contract ended the next day. 7am saw me eating humble pie to the reception staff (who were used to my constant complaints) they were all very kind but stated the we had to move from our lovely Seaview suite as new clients were arriving who had booked our accommodation. The hotel was full and the only room they had was of a significantly lesser standard. Moving Gus presented a problem eventually strong porters with a wheel chair came to the rescue.

Another doctor was summoned who decided he must be hospitalised. An ambulance arrived very quickly and transported us an hour away at a private health facility. This had to be paid for by card before he came out of the ambulance. He was wheeled immediately into the hospital and I was again charged at the A & E reception for his assessment. Despite having private medical travel insurance and a current E11 I had to pay upfront as I was briskly informed we were no longer EU citizens. Fortunately we have a euro account in Greece which I certainly needed to access.

The NHS is wonderful!! Compared with this private hospital I could not believe the chaos. Seven hours later I was told he was to be admitted but could not see him "Use your mobile" I was abruptly told! After waiting one hour for a taxi at the hospital and a terrifying 45 minute journey I arrived back at the hotel at 10pm. No cup of tea or anything to eat all day.

I was informed I could visit on a daily basis from 5pm till 7pm and on my first visit I was informed by a very anxious husband that he was to have surgery on his back followed by 5 days hospitalisation followed by 6 to 8 weeks rehabilitation in Tenerife.

I was extremely distressed and rang our as always supportive and wonderful President Rose as well as other medical friends. The consensus advice was definitely no to immediate surgery, control his pain and get him home. The next day I stressed to a disorientated Gus not to sign anything consenting to surgical intervention. It took three days to see a doctor, accompanied by an interpreter, whose view was if he wasn't going to agree to surgery then he could be discharged. No evidence of who the surgeon would be or of which surgical specialty.

Our insurance company (AXA) were most supportive to me but stated that they could not pay the hospital costs until a medical report and a 'fit to fly' certificate was obtained. I booked a taxi to bring him to the hotel the next day but the hospital refused to discharge him without the bill being settled and it took 18 hours for the medical information to be forwarded before he arrived back to the hotel to our mutual great relief.

The insurers settled the hotel bill for the extra six days and made all our necessary travel arrangements.

Eventually we arrived back to Manchester, our two week holiday being extended to three weeks including a very traumatic episode. Never again!! I immediately cancelled our planned April Danube cruise. We were fortunate to have access to a Euro bank account and excellent travel insurance. The hotel rep told me of many incidents which hotel clients with health issues had experienced with some insurance providers and also associated financial difficulties. Yet another aspect to be taken into consideration post Brexit, we are certainly treated as complete foreigners regarding health provision

Rosemary Steven

One of the projects that we support is **WomenMATTAs**, a Women's Centre in Manchester that provides intense, holistic support to women affected by the criminal justice system and to those at risk.

The Centre provides women with a safe and homely space in which to access gender-specialist support services. It is a 'one-stop-shop' offering group work, one-to-one and counselling supporting women on a variety of topics. On average they have about 450 women on their case load and usually about 125 to 150 of those are being actively case managed at any one time

Over the Christmas period Women MATTAs put together Christmas packs for each of the women and they asked for our help to source small 2022 diaries to help the women they support to keep organised.

Sophie, Chair of our Programme Action People & Prosperity Committee and lead on the WomenMATTAs project, used her contacts, our Facebook page and email to begin the appeal for, initially 100 diaries but then 200!

In the meantime Sophie set up a special Facebook page '**Soroptimist International Manchester Appeals Group**':

This group is run by members of Soroptimist International Manchester and is used to inform everybody of the appeals that we are running from time to time. We want to make this group fun and interactive so would appreciate it if you can comment and like the posts 🙏🏻

Throughout the year we run a variety of appeals from collecting toiletries, pyjamas, good second hand clothing, bedding, towels, diaries and financial contributions, amongst many other things! 🧴👚👙👕👖🛒
100% of what we collect goes to the projects and charities that we support, which tend to be reviewed on an annual basis. ¹⁰⁰

This year we are supporting a number of national and international charities, through collecting items, fundraising and volunteering.

Thanks to all for the contributions received for WomenMATTAs. 🙏🏻

President Rose and Treasurer Elaine have been to WomenMATTAs to drop off £150 in Asda gift vouchers, donated by the club. We also dropped off over 200 diaries, toiletries, pre-loved clothes and a big bag of bras. They were delighted to receive these now, as they are making up Christmas parcels for their service users. They can use the Asda gift vouchers to purchase items for the packs. Their officer, Sarah, explained to us that for some of the women, it will be the only present that they will receive.



Sophie then posted the 'Thank You' received on the new Facebook Appeals Group page showing our logo on the Gift Tag.....

Thank you from Women MATTAs. 🙏🏻🎁🎉

"I wanted to reach out and thank you again for your generosity in donating Christmas gifts for us to give to the women we work with. This is honestly invaluable and will no doubt put a smile on a hundred women's faces; we really cannot thank you enough as it will be, for some women, the only gift they will receive."



MASH Manchester Action on Street Health

MASH is a Manchester charity providing non-judgemental support to women who sex work. MASH work with women where they are at, supporting them to be safer, healthier and feel more equipped to take control of their lives.

Some of the toiletries , tights and other things needed delivered to Janelle

@[MASH \(Manchester Action on Street Health\)](#)



We Responded to a South Lancashire Region Appeal: 'Behind Bras'



'Behind Bras' was established after Diane Hawkins, High Sheriff of Greater Manchester, visited Styal prison. Diane was horrified to discover that staff were struggling to supply underwear to the women after budgetary problems forced closure of the sewing room. We joined clubs from across our Soroptimist International of South Lancashire Region in donating bras, knickers and socks for the women at Styal prison. Here is Club president Rosemarie Marginson with some of the items.



South Lancashire Clubs took their collections to the Region meeting and a rough count on the day was 350 pairs of Knickers, 49 Bras and 60 pairs of Socks, with still more to come!

Sharman Birtles, Soroptimist and Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Greater Manchester, circulated the following:
On behalf of the High Sheriff of Greater Manchester, Diane Hawkins JP DL, I write to thank you for the magnificent collection you have undertaken for Behind Bras. I knew I could count on fellow Soroptimists to get behind such a worthwhile project and I'm certain the High Sheriff herself will want to thank you in due course.



Check your Inbox next week
for a summary of our social
media posts for
16 Days of Activism

PLANET Projects

My 'Rumble Raisin' take on Ali's Bara Brith.

Ingredients are from my local zero waste shops **Lentils and Lather** (West Didsbury) and **Weigh to Bee** (Didsbury Village).

These shops sell dry goods like rice, pasta, sugar, dried fruits, nuts, pulses and spices.

You take your own containers, weigh them in the shop and write the weight on them. Fill them up and the shop weighs them and calculates the cost.

Lentils and Lather sell wet stuff too - shampoo, conditioner, washing up liquid and cleaning fluids. I can never resist their vegan Rum and Raisin truffles.

So no prizes for guessing my favourite ice cream! When she was little, Kitty called it 'Rumble Raisin', and the name stuck.

Lentils and Lather are also the collection point for my veg box where they source produce as locally as possible.

I'm also lucky that I can also walk to a green-grocer where I can buy loose veggies. I take washable, reusable bags or bread-bags with me.



My mum noticed me looking at jackets in a vintage shop. I'm glad she remembered that my Aunt had given her this lovely quality jacket for Kitty, but she turned it down.

My current project? Replacing soles of worn through slipper socks. The wool is from an unravelled jumper that my gran knitted for me. It was my favourite but is rather dated and stretched.

I know she would approve - she was from the make do and mend generation.



Elaine Loader

The Intrepid Soroptimist Travellers, Susan and Olive Bravely on an Open Top Bus in November. (6°).

So how did such an experience occur? As we talked about how our lives have changed during the pandemic and our separate travelling over the years to places such as, Iceland, the Serengeti, Peru and the Galapagos, plus around the World cruise, we decided that a short staycation was the answer before Christmas.

So with cases packed we ventured into our exclusive coach. Susan had booked the front seats and before we knew it we were on our way, breakfast, drinks or snacks were being served.

We arrived in Harrogate to sunshine and a blue sky. As we strolled around we felt the history of the town lingers on in a gentle and positive atmosphere. Susan's sister and her husband met with us later and we enjoyed lunch at the Hotel du Vin. We strolled around the shops before boarding our coach to overnight in York.

Sunday morning saw us well prepared with warm clothing and a detailed plan. Without hesitation we decided to brave it outside on an "Open Top Bus" to reacquaint ourselves with the history of York and appreciate its iconic buildings.

We later visited the Christmas markets and Susan couldn't resist buying yet another hat! However, I came home with another handbag!

Following a late lunch we travelled home feeling that our first staycation had been a success.

Olive Doody



Introducing Renuka – We have agreed to Finance Her Two Year Nursing Course (£600)
Here is the letter from Eliazar:

NEW HOPE RURAL LEPROSY TRUST

Regd Office
Post Bag No.1, Muniguda, 765020
Dist Rayagada, Odisha
Email: newhopeindia@live.com

Community Centre
Balighattam, Kothavalasa Mandalam
Kothavalasa -535189, Vizianagaram
Andhra Pradesh, (India)

You wrote to us asking if there might be a senior girl in need of Educational Support. Ruth and I have waited until mid-afternoon today when the finals were given on line to each girl.

Renuka – CAME TO US IN 2008 – with her sister Nalini.

We are giving you her background, Renuka and Nalani came from a poverty line family living in a small town in a hutment area. Their father was ill for 3 years with cancer. He had what was then basic treatment but passed away in the Government Hospital.

The Doctor, knowing New Hope, called us and a Social Worker went to see the family situation. Their mother was and still is a frail woman who collects small firewood from a nearby forest area and sells it.

During the time of her husband's illness she simply went around begging to survive. Both girls came to stay with us within days of the meeting with their mother.

(Nalani the elder sister is now doing skill training in Food Management with a scholarship.)



Two years ago Renuka and a group of senior girls studied and passed their Intermediate exam, 5th year High School. After a year of intense study she had the opportunity to sit for a level of a junior science course. Her aim has always been to be 'some kind of nurse'. She knew that she would not pass the extremely difficult course that would allow her to try for what would be called a Degree in Nursing. We agreed 6 months ago she could have tutoring for a 2



year course towards an entrance opportunity for Auxiliary Midwife Nursing. We sponsored her to stay in a Hostel associated with the College running the course. We have a photo – every girl had the same photo 'studying the night prior to the big exam'.

Twelve of the eighteen girls (seniors we call them) had already passed their Practical Exam. This is similar to 6 months of being a Ward Attendant. In passing this they would appear for the theory that admits them to AMN Degree Course. Renuka passed with A grade and 'above 80/100 test.

Even Renuka doubted that she would make it through the final – but she did incredibly well.

We are now hoping that we will have a donor for the next 2 years of study. The Nursing Fee with a 50% scholarship, because she passed A Class and above 75/100 marks, is GBP 600 covering the 2 years.

We also need to raise GBP 30 per month for one year only for her accommodation. The Government will finance the final year accommodation as she has agreed to say with a Government Hospital for 1 year post graduation (there are benefits in that for Renuka)

We would truly appreciate this sponsorship. It came almost unexpected! We should never doubt young people's determination when they are sincerely in their goals.

Eliazar

Maureen Heywood

#20Milesfor20Years – Fundraising for Act4Africa’s 20th Anniversary

2021 marked 20 years since Act4Africa was set up. The Charity asked its supporters to complete a 20 mile challenge during November to raise funds to continue the fantastic work that it does. My challenge was to walk twenty miles over twenty days, accompanied by Jamie the Labrador, but to add some interest by doing those walks in 20 different parks across Greater Manchester.

Not an auspicious start to our challenge as the rain was coming down in stair rods on our walk around **Worthington Park, Sale**! We notched up our first half mile but made up for it on Day 2 with an extended walk starting and ending at **Dainewell Park, Sale** and taking in Dainewell Woods and Carrington Moss. This area of peat moss is currently under threat from industrial and housing developments and road building (the notorious Carrington Relief Road)



Victoria Park, Stretford and **Denzell Gardens, Altrincham** were next on my list. You may remember that we had a stall at Victoria Park’s Family Fun Day a few years ago. We didn’t have time to explore that day but it is certainly worth a visit and has a lovely dog friendly café



For all the years I have lived in the South Manchester area, I have never visited Denzell Gardens and the Devisdale before. Denzell House, built in the 1870s, is now surrounded by well-tended formal gardens which looked stunning in the autumn sunshine. The Devisdale is an area of common land adjacent to and accessible from the gardens.



Our 5th selection was **Dukinfield Park** was chosen because of its proximity to Healthy Hounds Therapies where Jamie goes swimming. A serviceable local park but not high on my re-visit list

Next on the list was **Woodheys Park** in Sale. The entrance to this park is just across the road from where I lived as a child but it wasn’t a park then – just a route onto Carrington Moss. Sinderland Brook was there of course and my childhood dog Denny enjoyed it just as much as Jamie does now.

This was followed by **John Leigh Park** in Altrincham. I used to pass this park every time I went to the Act4Africa office but had never been in it. Part of the former Oldfield Estate, the park was gifted to Altrincham Council by cotton industrialist Sir John Leigh in 1917 and had the reputation of being one of the most beautiful parks in Cheshire.



Would you believe that all the years I have lived in the Manchester area, I had never been to **Heaton Park**! They were busy erecting Lightopia when I visited. Handily located on the route back from Hopwood Hall College (Grandma's morning taxi run!) this is definitely on the revisit list

By contrast, the next two - **Ashton Park** and **Weathercock Farm** park – are on a 2.5 mile circular route from my front door. This walk took us over the 10 mile mark & the half way point of 10 parks (13 miles)



We had a lovely walk around **Sale Water Park** with Pat and Poppy, starting off with coffee at the Tree Tops café. This was followed by a trip down memory lane in **Wythenshawe Park**. My late Auntie Annie lived just across the road from this park – she is lovingly remembered for her birthday and Christmas presents which were always books.♥ A little later in life, I lived just down the road in a bedsit in West Didsbury and vividly remember taking my two little house kittens for a walk on their leads in Wythenshawe Park, which was fine until they both decided to climb a tree!!



Next on the list – **Longford Park** – is another one which, although just a few miles away, to my shame I had never visited before, but certainly will do again.



Urmston Meadows, much loved by dog walkers across Trafford, was our next excursion, this time accompanied by Carina and Olive. Olive is the intelligent looking dog at the front.



Across the other side of the Ship Canal, in Irlam, is **Prince's Park**, a really interesting park which contains a unique remnant of the original course of the River Irwell, now an important habitat for a range of local wildlife.

And for a real surprise, I highly recommend **Trafford Ecology Park**, a beautiful & peaceful green space hidden away in the middle of Trafford Park industrial estate.



Walton Park in Sale is another of the parks of my youth. On the banks of the Bridgewater Canal, it has a model railway as well and the wonderful Walton Park coffee barge. Pat and Poppy were my companions again for cappuccino and a meander.

I never got to Buile Hill Park but did visit nearby **Light Oaks Park**. On the same day, I also discovered another hidden gem, **Newton Park** in Timperley. Although only two miles from home, I hadn't even heard of this park let alone been there.



So, 19 days, 19 parks and 20.5 miles completed. This just left one park to add to the list, and what better place to finish than **Alexandra Park** :

Jamie smashed it!



**20 PARKS
EXPLORED**

**TOTAL DISTANCE
WALKED: 22 miles**

TOTAL AMOUNT RAISED SO FAR: £230



There's still time to donate:

<https://act4africa.enthuse.com/pf/barbara-blaber-88e12>

A big thankyou to all the Friends groups around Greater Manchester who work so hard to keep our parks and open spaces clean and tidy and a pleasure to visit.

Barbara Blaber, Jamie & Friends

Impacts Of Climate Change In Uganda (from Act4Africa's Newsletter)

Sunday 31st October 2021 marked the beginning of the UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow. You have probably been hearing a lot about COP26 recently. But, as the world's attention turns to political leaders in Glasgow, we want to raise awareness of the impacts of climate change in Uganda.

**Uganda is the 10th MOST vulnerable country to climate change.
In comparison, the UK is the 9th LEAST vulnerable.
It is this statistic that makes what I'm about to say even more shocking.
Although the top 10 countries most at risk of climate change are all in Africa,
the whole African continent produces just 3% of global emissions.
The UK alone produces 1% of global emissions.**

Here is how climate change is already impacting the daily lives of our communities in Uganda:

Girls Education

Women and girls are disproportionately impacted by climate change compared to boys and men. One reason for this is because women are more likely to lose their livelihoods as a result of climate change. In periods of crisis, girls are often the first to drop out of school to help their families make money and to look after the household.

As a part of our commitment to helping girls gain access to education, we established the Grow a Girl programme.

Our sponsorship programme helps and supports girls to remain in school, and trains them to become Peer Educators, educating others about gender equality and life choices through drama-based extra-curricular 'Life Clubs'. [Click here to read more about this.](#)



Flooding

The rainy season in Uganda has grown by two months in the last 35 years. There will be more flooding as the rain continues to fall. Every year, flooding affects the lives of 50,000 Ugandans. This causes homes to flood and families are forced to move, markets flood meaning income opportunities are stopped, and sewage systems overflow resulting in diseases, such as cholera.

Temperatures are rising.

Keeping 1.5 degrees within reach is a major talking issue at COP26. This means that global warming should not exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius, and if it does, we should expect more serious climate change effects. Unless we take action, Uganda's temperature is expected to rise by a startling 4.3 degrees by 2080! A further rise in temperature will have a negative impact on agriculture, food production, and livelihoods in a country that already suffers from droughts.

Food and Water

Extreme rainfall and rising temperatures have resulted in food and water shortages. Crop development and food production are harmed by droughts and flooding. Many farmers are unable to cope with the unpredictable nature of harsh weather. Farmers are increasingly finding themselves without crops and without a source of income. As food grows scarcer, the poorest countries will find it difficult to feed their families. Water availability is already a problem for 8 million Ugandans, and sanitation facilities are a problem for another 27 million.

We are hopeful that COP26 will set realistic targets to keep 1.5 degrees in reach, support those at the front line of climate change and hear what people are saying, especially those facing the impacts of climate change on a daily basis.

Sue Underwood

Veguary!

In January 2022, many of us have committed to eating more vegan and vegetarian meals. I will be circulating a booklet for members with some information about the carbon impact of our food choices, as well as some recipes from members and tips on reducing food waste!

In the meantime, as the days are getting shorter and colder, here is a recipe for my favourite soup! It can be adapted to include things that may need using up.

Tuscan Bean Soup

Serves 4 - 6 (depends on portion sizes).

Ingredients:

2 tablespoons of olive oil
1 onion peeled and diced small
1 leek chopped small
2 or 3 celery stalks chopped small
2 carrots quartered, peeled and chopped small
3 cloves garlic peeled and chopped finely
1 medium potato (any kind) peeled and diced into small cubes
1 red chilli finely chopped or some chilli flakes

If you have some fresh ginger, I like to put in about 1cm squared, finely chopped

If you have courgettes, fennel, celeriac or similar veg that needs using, you could include those too

1/2 teaspoon of salt

400 g tin Italian diced tomatoes

1.5 - 2 litres vegetable stock

Two 400g tins of beans (drained): I tend to use cannellini, borlotti, butter, kidney or black eye beans. I use two different beans for contrast!

Bunch (around 350g) of cavolo nero (stems removed) or cabbage or kale, chopped

Herbs: I like a herby soup, so include whatever I have to hand (usually rosemary, sage, a bay leaf, parsley, basil, thyme, oregano) - be generous with whichever herbs you like!



Method:

- Heat a large soup pot over a medium heat and add the olive oil for a minute.
- Add the onion, leek, onion, celery, carrots, garlic, potatoes, chilli, salt and ginger (if using). Also add any other vegetables that need using (such as courgettes, fennel, celeriac or similar veg).
- Stir and cook slowly for 10 minutes so that the vegetables sweat out their flavours and don't brown too much.
- Stir the tomatoes into the pot and cook for a few minutes.
- Add the two tins of beans, the herbs (but not basil) and the vegetable stock. I use 1.5l stock but you may wish to add more.
- Bring the soup to the boil before lowering to a simmer for 18-20 minutes.
- A few minutes before service, add the basil if using and the cavolo nero (or cabbage or kale) and continue to simmer for a few minutes.
- Serve with your favourite crusty bread.

Carina Badger

SIM's PLANET GROUP

Million Thanks to SIMs Planet Group 🌍🌍🌍

The Recycling Directory has been fab!

Millions of Guidance, Help, Encouragement It's been well shared with friends & family not quite a Million times but hope to get there !

My Grey bin now only gets emptied what feels like once in a Million weeks with hardly anything in it !

Much appreciated A Million Times ! 🙌🙌🙌

Liz Aniteye



At **The Fabric of Protest** we have been considering the Nationality and Borders bill, that is working its way through Parliament.

It is being criticised by the **United Nations** for many reasons.

One is that it will restrict access to asylum by introducing a two-tiered approach in which only those who come to the UK through so-called safe and legal pathways will have access to the full benefits of the **1951 Refugee Convention**.

People unable to get permission to leave from the dangerous regime they are fleeing, will be criminalised by the UK. They could receive a four year prison sentence, if the bill is passed.

Anyone who tries to help them could also be jailed.

Elaine Loader

Go to <https://sigbi.org/manchester/files/2020/08/Newsletter-Spring-Summer-Autumn-2019-Online.pdf>
'Peterloo Commemoration' (Page 7) for more work from 'The Fabric of Protest' group

Van Gogh Alive MediaCityUK

At "Van Gogh Alive" you don't just look at his paintings, you step inside them and feel their power.

A few members have shared their photos from visits to this exhibition



The Van Gogh Alive experience was amazing. This photo was taken in the sunflower room which was so calming & peaceful.

Sue Harris



Elaine and I had an enjoyable afternoon at Salford Quays on Saturday... I'd been given a voucher for Afternoon tea at Cafe Rouge for my birthday, so we combined that with **Van Gogh Alive** and then a glass of wine!

Soo Rose-Cook

(Book online at www.quaytickets.com – it is on until 23rd January)



Responding to Need

For 100 years the Royal British Legion has been helping serving and ex-serving personnel and their families.

From those who served in the First World War to the men and women of our Armed Forces today, we believe no-one should suffer for having served others.

As we reflect on our achievements over the last 100 years, we stand ready to support the next generation when they need us.



I grew up knowing about the Royal British Legion. Both Mum and Dad were ex-service so were Full Members of our local Mickleover Royal British Legion in 'Ypres Lodge'. Recently I came across Mum's handwritten talk about The Royal British Legion Women's Section. I've no idea which group heard it, but I think it would have been delivered in 1998/9. By 1998 I had been a Soroptimist for six years and I do remember that Mum hadn't previously heard of Soroptimism! Of course I could hear Mum as I was typing it up and I hope that you find it interesting to read.



I have been invited to speak to you tonight and to tell you a few facts about the Royal British Legion, especially the Women's Section.

About 43 years ago we as a family moved to Mickleover (*village/suburb 3 miles from Derby city centre*) and I joined the British Legion Women's Section knowing nothing at all about the organisation! My husband joined the British Legion first and suggested I joined the Women's Section side of it. Now, drinking with one arm on the bar or playing snooker as he seemed to do, didn't appeal to me one bit and, in my ignorance, I thought that that was what 'The Legion' was all about.

When I first joined the Women's Section the meetings were held in the upstairs lounge as ladies were not allowed in the downstairs Clubrooms, except on a Saturday evening, so my illusions of 'propping up the bar' were quickly quashed! Anyway, I became interested in Legion work, as did my husband, I've always believed that to find out about an organisation you must become involved. I learned a lot about the British Legion Women's Section and its help and aims to all ex-service men and women and their dependants, particularly that it seemed to involve a lot of interesting and varied work.

I was invited to join the committee (I think they were looking for someone who was eager and easily persuaded!) Soon afterwards I was asked to be Secretary - at the meetings the Chairman always seemed to be saying to the Treasurer 'You see to that' or to the Secretary 'You write to them' and I thought that she's got the easy job! So, when I was asked to be Chairman a few years later, I thought I had finally landed that easy job – how wrong I was! In a lot of organisations the period that one person is Chairman is limited (and I think that is a very good idea) but in the Mickleover Branch of the British Legion that doesn't always work Members are always willing to help but they are hesitant to lead and that is why I am still Chairman 38 years on!

Later I was asked to represent the Women's section on the Men's Service Committee. At the time that committee didn't really mean a great deal to me but, after many years I have enjoyed that work which consists of real help to people in need. Things have changed over the years, perhaps there are not so many poor ex-service people about, but when I first joined (*late 1950's*) Electricity and Gas bills were paid, coal supplied, food given, and even loans to buy a house have been granted. Also, transport to hospital when dependants have had difficulty getting there, parties at Geriatric and Mental Hospitals, Gifts to widows at Christmas time and so on. This is a small, dedicated, highly confidential Service Committee where names are never mentioned outside those few committee members. When some of those local people who have been helped say to me "How nice to see you, thank you for remembering me" I feel the time and effort needed is well worthwhile. Over the years, birthday cards have been sent to every ex-service man and woman who lived at Pastures Hospital (*Mental Asylum that developed into a community village in itself*) and very often it was the only card they received.

I know that to raise money is not easy, especially with so many organisations asking for help, but I believe that if a person is enjoying themselves raising that money then it makes the effort so much easier.

You probably know that Lady Hilton is our Branch President and, until 3 years ago, was our County Chairman (Derbyshire) ... (*Mum took over as Derbyshire County Chairman when Lady Hilton stood down*)

Lady Hilton has the connections of course, but she uses them for our benefit. Over the years she has enabled us to use halls and private residences as well as providing entertainment all free of charge, thus helping raise a lot more money from events. Whilst enjoying these facilities, Royalty have made visits allowing some of us to be presented to them. We are very lucky to have such a kind and devoted member to lead us. The Late Sir Peter Hilton was a Legion member and was very interested in all our efforts.

October 1980: Mum presenting a spotty dog she had made to Princess Anne for Master Peter Phillips for his 3rd birthday – Princess Anne departed in her helicopter with the dog on her lap!



Our purpose is to help the men of the British Legion in their aims and to raise money for the Poppy Appeal, something else I got very involved in. I have seen amounts rising in our collections over the years – I can remember announcing that we had collected £200 (late 1950's) in our yearly appeal – this year (c1998) we have raised here in Mickleover over £8,000! We know we have a lot of generous people living in our area. Our Annual Marathon has this year again raised over £1,000. The Women's Section do the teas and bacon butties – our runners tell us that the smell of sizzling bacon, which seems to spread all over the route, brings them home so much quicker!

Way back in 1938 a Widow's Allowance Fund was set up to grant a weekly allowance to ex-servicemen's widows suffering hardship and this is one of the funds we help today. The amount then paid isn't very much by today's standards, but even a figure of £1 per week to 500 widows requires £26,000 to be found every year – and that allowance has now increased to at least £5. Every one of our widows on these allowances is sent a gift and card on their birthday too.

We help towards a (National) Welfare Fund that exists for any special effort of the Women's Section. Over the years this has helped tragedies such as flooding in Norfolk and the loss of a Lifeboat. Money was sent on each occasion, not to any fund, but as money for immediate help.

We have 28 Royal British Legion Women's Section branches in Derbyshire – last year (c1997) those branches, some with only 10 members, donated £13,387 to our National Schemes (*apart from the Poppy Appeal!*) (c£21,000 in today's money)

In 1996 we in Derbyshire thought we would have a 'special effort' called 'Link For Peace' to mark 50 years of peace. Members walked between branches and linked every branch in Derbyshire raising £2,500 which was handed over at a National Conference as a 'special effort' from Derbyshire. During a very hot summer, ladies of all ages walking in shorts, sun dresses & wearing sun hats....they had to be seen to be believed!

We here in Mickleover try to raise money in various ways – coffee mornings, speaker meetings, 'Beetle Drives' etc. We pay a very small subscription, as I see it members pay to belong and that payment encourages them to work hard and enables them to give their spare money to our fund raising efforts – our next one is at the Council House in Derby, a Coffee Morning for all who want to come and have a look around the Council House, look at what we have to sell at our cake and book stalls as well as having a drink of coffee, all for 50p.

The Women's Section work has progressed over the years and has changed with the needs and circumstances.

The British Legion, including the Women's Section, was founded in 1921 and in 1924 our Queen Mother, then HRH The Duchess of York, became our President and still holds that position today*

In 1933 she presented a diamond and sapphire brooch to Lady Edward Spencer Churchill who had been National Chairman for 10 years and that brooch is now always worn by the presiding National Chairman.

*(*2021 HRH Princess Anne is President of the Women's Section)*

Throughout the years, beginning in 1928, children have been sent on holiday

By 1929 1000 branches had been formed.

1937 was Coronation year and 2000 children had holidays.

In 1938 our 'Queen Mother' attended our conference as Queen Elizabeth

By 1940 the second world war was in progress, the one some of us remember well.

The 'Wardrobe Scheme' was started and large quantities of new and part worn clothing were distributed to bombed service families – at this time generous help was given by the United States of America (over 47,000 articles of clothing were sent to the 3 services)

By 1941 Clothing coupons were issued – some of you must remember them! People hung onto their clothes making it very difficult to continue with the Wardrobe scheme, but it did carry on to the end of the war.

During the war years rural branches preserved fruit and vegetables, cared for children and we had the 'Dig for Victory' campaign. We remember that slogan just as we remember the one about eating more carrots to see better in the dark – I reckon if I had eaten more carrots I wouldn't have tripped up so many steps while selling poppies door to door! Parcels were sent to service women on isolated sites, but many of the sites I served on were isolated, dark and dismal but no parcels caught up with me!

During the war years branches donated fully equipped mobile canteens and a van equipped for blood transfusions and surgical operations during the blitz.

In 1945 Queen Elizabeth, along with Princess Elizabeth in uniform, attended Conference and the Princess, now our Queen, was presented with a Gold Badge and Life Membership of the Women's Section.

By the late 1950's branches had been formed in Guernsey, Jersey, Lille in France, Detroit, Columbia and sister organisations in Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

1971 was the Legion's Golden Jubilee Year, this was when we became the **Royal British Legion**.

We hold yearly National Conferences, one year in the north, Blackpool, and one year in the south, usually Bournemouth, always well supported. In Blackpool last year there were 546 delegates, 195 standard bearers and hundreds of visitors, men and women.

Our main speaker was Pauline Clare the Chief Constable of Lancashire (1995-2002), the first woman to hold the post, she had been in the police force from being a young cadet – of course her first job was mainly answering the telephone and filing papers. Pauline said that phone calls were a bit like dealing with Lily Savage with a hangover! She said she had worked hard, stuck with the job and was now Chief Constable. Pauline said the perks of the job were quite interesting, she'd been invited to the set of Coronation Street and met Ken Barlow – someone asked if she had helped free Deirdre, she laughed and said she hadn't but she would have liked to have given Ken a few tips on giving evidence!

We had a hat stall in the foyer of the Winter Gardens, we'd all been asked to donate hats and we had hundreds - I think everyone had given their Wedding hats! Dame Mary, our past National Chairman known for wearing beret type hats, was walking around in a big brimmed, net trimmed fancy hat with a cardboard label stuck in the back declaring "I bought this at our hat stall, why don't you pay it a visit?" That Hat stall raised over £300!

A book about the Royal British Legion Women's Section was printed in 1981, not only as a permanent record, but also as a tribute to the many women from all walks of life who have used their time, skills and compassion to help ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen and their dependants in times of need or distress. It shows that by joint efforts much has been achieved, not only in the raising of money, but in the diversification of service given as circumstances changed over the years. Many lasting friendships have been made and there has been much pleasure in the giving and receiving.

Some time ago we had someone from the local Press to talk to us – after her visit she wrote in her column "Royal British Legion Members are a band of people who remember all the year round. There's more to this organisation than Poppies and Remembrance Services. They provide one of the biggest services to ex-service personnel. They are the caring few for the forgotten millions"

.....I couldn't have put it better myself – I am proud to belong.

Dorothy Underwood (1923-2007)

On a Similar Note.... Remembrance Sunday

As a member of the Brass Banding community, Remembrance Sunday is the most important day in our calendar.

Everyone wants to play their part in helping the country remember and pay their respects and we are proud to do so.

Band members also get asked to play the Last Post on the 11/11, as well as at schools and sports clubs, as a way of helping the next generation understand about Remembrance and what it means.





In Sale the numbers attending the service seem to grow every year (apart from 2020 when a solitary bugler played with no formal service) and I must admit to finding it hard to keep playing when the crowd applaud the veterans as they march off, big lump in my throat.

The band are the last to leave the cenotaph and as we march off we always get a big round of applause too .

Always Proud and honoured to play.

A banding friend recently joined the RAF as a Bandsman and this year was part of the Massed Bands at the Whitehall Cenotaph. A great honour indeed.

.....Then I dashed off to Flixton to play in a concert for the Veterans there... It's a busy day! But so important.

Soo Rose-Cook

The National Memorial Arboretum (NMA), Alrewas, Staffordshire

This 150 acre visitor site is part of the Royal British Legion, but a separate legal body and UK registered charity, to ensure that:

- the unique contribution of those who have served and sacrificed is never forgotten
- the baton of Remembrance is passed on through the generations
- there is a year-round space to celebrate lives lived and commemorate lives lost.



The Arboretum welcomes over 300,000 visitors to site each year, including over 20,000 young people for formal and informal learning visits. Visitors can enjoy discovering almost 400 memorials nestled amongst some 25,000 trees.

Soroptimist International Great Britain and Ireland has had a plot at the National Memorial Arboretum since 2001.



Lynne Dunning was the Federation President at the time and wanted us to have a presence there as she felt it would contribute to us being recognised as an organisation that works for peaceful communities to advance the lives of women and girls.

In June 2020 SIGBI President Isobel announced that the target of £10,000 for a statue on our plot, had been achieved from Members donations.

The statue was unveiled in September 2021
by SIGBI President Cathy and IPP Isobel



Find out more about the National Memorial arboretum at
<https://www.thenma.org.uk/>

Dates for Your Diary

Tuesday 4 th January	6:45 for 7pm	Club Meeting on ZOOM
Tuesday 18 th January	7pm	Executive Meeting at President Rose's home
Wednesday 19 th January	6:45 for 7pm	Zoom PAC – 'Planet' (then 'People & Prosperity')
Wednesday 19 th January	7:45 pm	Zoom PAC – 'People & Prosperity'
Tuesday 25 th January	6:45 for 7pm	Cook-Along with Ali on Zoom – details to follow
Saturday 29 th January	7pm	Vegan & Vegetarian Buffet Supper – details to follow
Tuesday 1 st February	6:30 for 7pm	Club Meeting – details to follow
Tuesday 15 th February	7pm	Executive Meeting – details to follow
Tuesday 1 st March	6:30 for 7pm	Club 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 Spring edition of the Newsletter by **Sunday 13th March**, please.

Personal anecdotes always welcome

Tell your 2021 Christmas story! ... What have you learned about yourself & others?

Send your 'Guess the Member' info ... Newer Members please introduce yourselves!

Anything else you would like to share?

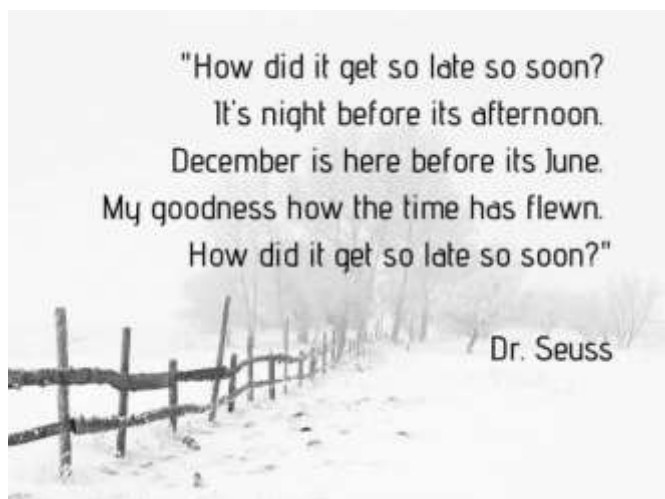
Sue Underwood sueuhome@sky.com

Some Festive Last Words



Some Christmas treats are healthy
And Mince Pies lead the way;
The raisins, currents, apple
Are 3 of my 5 a day.

Judy Russell/2012/2013
A woman's world observed





Wishing you a Joyful
Season at this Special
Time of Year
& a Happy & Healthy New
Year
Rosemary & Gus

Wishing all our members a
Very Happy Christmas and
a Peaceful and Healthy
New Year.
President Rose and John



Wishing all my new friends
at Soroptimist Manchester
a Happy Christmas and
Healthy New Year.
Thank you for welcoming
me to your club and I look
forward to getting to know
you better next year.
Val x



I wish all our members
a very
Happy Christmas
and
Healthy New Year
Stella



Merry Christmas to you
and your families and all
Good Wishes for a
brighter 2022.
Maureen x



Wishing you all a
Merry Christmas
and a wonderful
New Year.
Barry and Shena



Happy festive period to
everyone and their
families and lots of
love, light and happiness
for 2022.
Best wishes,
Sophie & Kev xxx



Merry Christmas!
Health and Happiness
to you and yours
in 2022
Sue X



I would like to wish all
my Soroptimist friends a
Merry Christmas and a
Healthy New Year.
Sue Harris



Wishing you a wonderful
Christmas time and the
chance to catch up with
family and friends.
May 2022 be happy and
healthy and green!
With love from Fiona, Paul
Alex and Ciara xxxx



Season's Greetings and a
Happy 2022 to all
Soroptimists and their
families.
Ann Thomas



Wishing you and yours a
peaceful and happy winter
season, however you
celebrate.
Here's to a positive 2022.
Ali Hanbury x



Love and best wishes
to you all
this Christmas.
Susan and David



Peace and Goodwill.
May you all be able to enjoy
yourselves whilst staying
safe.
Kathleen Beavis



With Very Best Wishes for
the Festive Season
Barbara, Steve, Cleo
and the mogs & dogs



I wish you and yours a
Happy Christmas and a
Peaceful New Year
Elaine



Happy Christmas
Best Wishes for 2022
Olive



Merry Christmas
Hope everyone enjoys the
special time with their
families
Love Cath & Rob
& Xmas puppy Pebble

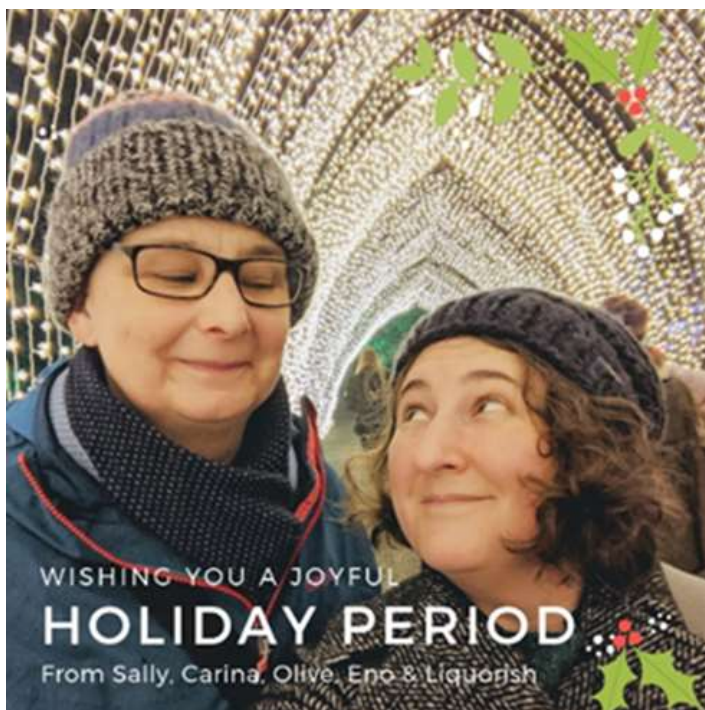


Christmas Greetings to
everyone and wishing you
all a very Happy and
Healthy 2022
...being able to spend time
with friends and family is
something we will never
take for granted again
Soo Rose-Cook



MERRY CHRISTMAS and
A VERY HAPPY NEW
YEAR to ALL!
Wishing everyone Good
Health Peace and a
Positive less Stressful
2022

Best wishes
Liz 🎄👴





Food & Friendship
Merry Christmas
Happy New Year
To All our Members, Friends and Family

