



Soroptimist International of Manchester

President: **Sue Underwood**

Autumn Winter 2022 Issue 82



Dear Club Members,

Here at last is your Autumn-Winter Newsletter, I hope that it's worth the wait!

It's been an interesting five months since the last edition, battling technology and a COVID cold, enjoying a September in Provence and about a month celebrating my 70th birthday, well the job had to be done!

Thank you for your contributions, I hope you enjoy your Christmas read.

Sue Underwood

President's Message – President Sue Underwood

We've all had a very busy Autumn and Winter as you will see from our interesting Speakers and other activities reported later, learning to live with COVID as we resume our social and fundraising events.

It was my absolute pleasure to meet Mamta Bajaj from SI Bangkok for the afternoon before our August Club meeting. We strolled around the Quays exchanging stories and experiences of life in our worlds, fascinating.

Mamta then joined us for our club meeting, including listening to our speaker from MASH (Manchester Action on Street Health)



SI Bangkok has recently celebrated their 45 years by publishing a superb book of their history, Mamta presented us with a copy. The book is made up the memories of 45 years of their Presidents, or contributions from the families of Presidents, a fascinating read and it is doing the rounds of the members maybe that should be our goal for our 100th anniversary in 2026?

Mamta presented me, as President, with a T-shirt & medal from their fundraising 'Run for Education

2022'. Mamta explained that this had been their first major fund raising event since the pandemic. (I'm pretty sure that that'll be the one and only medal for running I'm likely to possess!) Mamta passed on gifts from SI Bangkok to all members, pretty coin purses, face masks advertising Soroptimist International South West Pacific, and the badges they handed out at the S I Convention in Kuala Lumpur in 2019. Sadly we didn't happen to meet there....maybe in Dublin next year! (I have registered! – Remember the 'Early Bird' price ends on 31st January – strange that it will cost me about 50% more than my trip to Kuala Lumpur)

The evening passed far too swiftly.....of course now I want to visit Bangkok!

In October I enjoyed SI Stockport's Charter Lunch, South Lancashire Regional Past Presidents Lunch and our Charity Race Lunch, but then I had to miss SI Ashton's 'Quiz & Potato Pie' night when a cold tested COVID positive.

November was devoted to turning 70, quickly followed by '16 Days of Activism' into December and another cold, not COVID this time, kept me away from our Christmas Party.

As ever, housework has suffered, but I am enjoying my Soroptimism in its various guises!

President Sue



Club Meeting Speakers

August – An Update from MASH (Manchester Action on Street Health)

We have a long-standing relationship with MASH. MASH works with women who sex work. MASH provides them with support in the form of a drop-in centre in the middle of Manchester that provides a welcoming space just for women, as well as a clinic where they can receive medical care, screenings, contraception, etc.

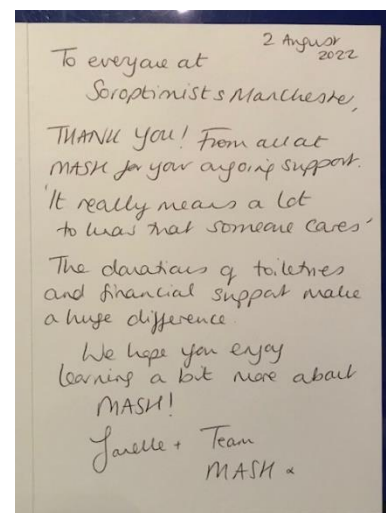


The team also provide an outreach service on foot and in their van which travels around the streets providing a safe space, emotional support, free condoms and needle exchange, and sometimes simply a warm cup of tea.

The van also provides confidential support to any women who are possibly sleeping rough or begging and also has interpreters where needed.

We have developed a comprehensive Programme Action plan over the year which includes collecting and donating a variety of much needed items, depending on the time of year, including as seen in the picture flip flops that were delivered during the recent hot weather.

Sophie Kennedy



October – Dr Clare Debenham and Women's Football

"Why was organised women's football banned by the Football Association for 50 years?" this was the question that Dr Clare Debenham left us with after telling us about her research examining the politics and social history behind the ban from December 1921 to July 1971

Dr Clare kindly left us copies of her booklet, a very interesting read!



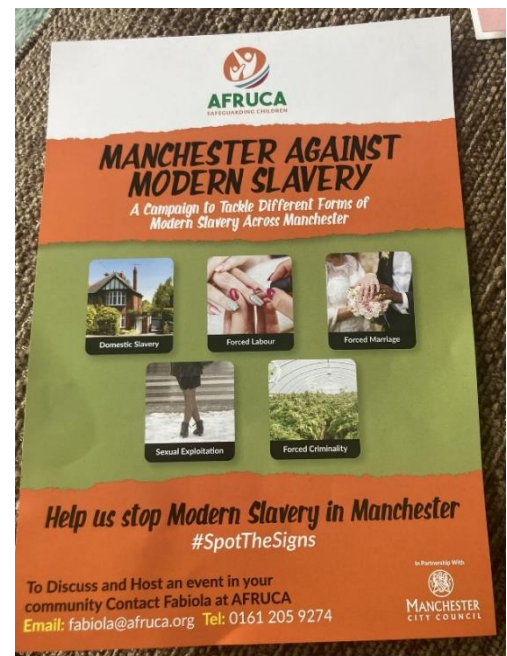
September – AFRUCA (Africans Unite Against Child Abuse)

Thank you to our member Fabiola on her very informative talk on AFRUCA (Africans Unite Against Child Abuse), the charity she works for. AFRUCA works in UK Black and Ethnic communities to protect and safeguard children from abuse, modern slavery, and exploitation. She particularly spoke about 'county lines' and modern slavery which can affect all children from every ethnicity. Definitely something we should all be aware of.

Rose Marginson

'County Lines' is a term used for organised illegal drug-dealing networks, usually controlled by a person using a single telephone number, or 'deal line'.

Serious organised criminals recruit vulnerable children and adults as 'runners' to transport drugs and cash all over the county so that the criminals behind it can remain detached and less likely to be detected.



November – Lend With Care – Microfinance from CARE International UK

Roberta Goodall from S I Kirkcaldy was our speaker via Zoom to introduce us to 'Lend With Care'.

We were pleased to welcome members from S I Glasgow who also wanted more information on 'Lend With Care'.

As a Club we decided to put a small amount of our reserves to work as ethically as possible.

'Lend With Care' aims to 'Change a Life with a Loan from £15'....Entrepreneurs living in low-income countries are bursting with ideas - all they need is a helping hand to get started.

What is lendwithcare?

Care Group, Rwanda
Farming

- "To help....the world's poorest people work their way out of poverty with dignity".
- Not a hand-out but a hand-up
- Aimed at low income, micro-entrepreneurs
- Not for everybody – some people need a grant or aid rather than a loan
- Village Savings & Loans Associations set up in 1991 by Care Int provided a model
- Microcredit evolved to provide basic financial services – savings, loans, money transfer, insurance
- Local Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) are partners - administer loans, some provide financial education and business training and set up groups for peer support
- Access to financial services guards against risks, builds assets, enables income-generating activity, increases women's confidence and status, gives them a voice and more visibility
- Women are *change-agents* in a family and community – spend money on family
- More reliable than men at repaying promptly



Members wishing to research the 'Lend with Care' option will find all the information at <https://lendwithcare.org/>

Val and Elaine have been investigating further and will report back in due course.

Grateful thanks to Kathy Newson for allowing me to share her ‘Getting to know Soroptimist International’ article. Kathy wrote it for newer members still struggling with the Federations and International, but I know I learned somethings from it after 30 years of Soroptimism, particularly about the Committees!

GETTING TO KNOW SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

Soroptimist International (SI) consists of five **Federations**:

Soroptimist International of Africa (SIAF)

Soroptimist International of the Americas (SIA)

Soroptimist International of Europe (SIE)

Soroptimist International of Great Britain & Ireland (SIGBI)

Soroptimist International of the South East Asia Pacific (SISEAP)

As members of SI Wichita, we are members of Soroptimist International of the Americas (SIA) *and* members of Soroptimist International (SI).

As members of SI Manchester, we are members of Soroptimist International of Great Britain & Ireland (SIGBI) and members of Soroptimist International (SI).

Soroptimist International is the umbrella organization of the **5 Federations** and its work centers on advocacy using **4 committees**.

Global Policy Committee

Global Impact Committee

Global Development Committee

Global Voice Committee

Global Policy Committee – hears and learns from the 19 Soroptimist Representatives from seven United Nations Centers, ensuring that the voices of women and girls around the world are included in international decision making.

1. The Representatives are Soroptimist members who volunteer in the seven offices. Each office has a different body of work that Soroptimists are interested in. The offices are in:
 - a. **New York** which is UN headquarters and UN Women headquarters – covering gender equality, sustainable development, trafficking, education, ageing and peace and security
 - b. **Geneva** – focal point for multilateral diplomacy, human rights, and peace and security; promoting gender equality and women’s and girls’ access to their human rights and fundamental freedoms
 - c. **Vienna** – drugs, crime prevention, violence against women and girls such as human trafficking, elder abuse, FGM
 - d. **Rome** - world food program, focusing on women’s roles in food production and distribution
 - e. **Paris** – scientific and cultural focusing on water for all and women and poverty
 - f. **Nairobi** – environmental issues focusing on rural women, disaster risk reduction and the effects of climate change on women and girls
 - g. **Bangkok** – Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific focusing on the region’s greatest challenges
2. These representatives participate on a day-to-day basis with the mission of influencing delegates of the member states or countries on issues of sustainable goals that are important to Soroptimists. The UN community knows that Soroptimists are in 3,000 communities worldwide.

It is important that Soroptimist clubs report the work they do to their Federations so that our UN Representatives know about the work we do on the ground.

(SIGBI Programme Action – Programme Focus Forms!)

3. These representatives bring back to SI the cutting edge and urgent messages from the international community so that we know that our work is relevant and current.
4. SI representatives also work with other like-minded NGOs because we know that we have a stronger voice together.
5. The representatives are active in helping us navigate and participate in worldwide activities such as the Commission on the Status of Women, civil society conferences, environmental conferences, and generation equality conferences.

Global Impact Committee – is made up of each Federation Director for Program so that SI hears and learns about the work at the club level and where we can work on common initiatives such as the 16 days of action which happens every year from November 24th to December 10th.

Global Development Committee – looks at how we develop ourselves and our work.

Global Voice Committee – ensures that SI communicates with the membership and externally to those who have an interest in our work.

WE ARE GLOBAL

The Sunflower Challenge

I'm really rather rubbish at gardening.

So I was surprised that one of the sunflowers I planted did so well.

In fact, only one of them grew and I assumed that that was just another weed until it started dwarfing them.

I think the advantage I had was that I planted it in the ground rather than a pot.

Wish me luck for the wild-flower bed that I've planted for next year!

Elaine Loader



(I'm afraid the squirrels enjoyed mine....at least those that survived the pigeons! Sue)

Val's Belfast SIGBI Conference

Hundreds of Soroptimists from all over the world, but particularly from Great Britain and Ireland, descended on Belfast for the SIGBI Conference in 2022. We were all looking for friendship and fun as well as being enlightened by excellent speakers on the theme 'Climate for Change'

I travelled and shared accommodation with my friend Pat Kilbane from Yorkshire. We flew from Leeds/Bradford with fellow Soroptimist Lindsay Green who missed no opportunity to promote the wellbeing of women and girls. She approached the airport security personnel asking them why there weren't any notices in the airport alerting women and girls to the assistance they could receive if they were being coerced into travelling.



Pat and I arrived in Belfast a day before the conference so that we could take a day trip to the Giant's Causeway. It was a full day coach trip which took in the Antrim coast and various places used to film 'Game of Thrones'.

Other delegates visited the Titanic Quarter or took an open top bus trip through Belfast. The latter is not to be recommended when the weather is cold

and the bus goes at least at 50mph down the motorway to Stormont!

Belfast city centre is a fascinating place to visit including the statues outside the Europa Hotel where there are 2 women who are dressed with the kinds of equipment a typical housewife would have to use - a colander, basket, cooking utensils, typewriter, etc.

(Interesting placement of the colander! Sue)



Then the conference began with Soroptimists descending on the Belfast International Conference Centre. A very emotional flag ceremony took place reminding us of why we are Soroptimists and how widespread the appeal is. The flags were paraded accompanied by chosen girls from Belfast who had achieved excellence in work, academia or sport.

At the end of the day's programme we all dashed back to our hotels to get changed and meet up again for dinner. It was great fun to share good food in company. Belfast has some excellent eating places. We went to a particularly nice steak restaurant which had a varied menu including a house speciality 'bang bang chicken with phuck phuck sauce'. It was declared to be very tasty.



The wine flowed freely over dinner and afterwards back at the hotel. Some enjoyed the Guinness. I did very well ordering a port at my hotel served by 2 young waiters who said they didn't know how to serve port so gave me a champagne flute full!

Saturday evening came all too quickly. The 'Change of Insignia' had taken place so we have new Federation officers in place and regional presidents starting their year of office. Sadly, we weren't allowed to cheer them as they received their chains of office so we had to be content with waving our white (Yorkshire) roses. We made up for it afterwards with a dinner and lots of clapping and cheering and wishes of good luck.

Sunday was the day for packing up, saying farewell and promising to meet up again next year in Dublin for the Soroptimist International Convention in July and/or the SIGBI Conference in London.

Val Jenkins



Lunch At The Races!



We took 'Fun, Food, Friendship & Fundraising' to a new level (& at a new venue!) for our first post-COVID fund raising and social event.....

Inspired by Alison, a newish member and our 'Social Chair', a Charity Race Lunch was to be our first big fundraising event in far too long. Alison and her team worked very hard for many months beforehand and more members volunteered to help on the day.

Thanks to amazing support from members, friends, family and from other clubs, we raised just short of £3,000! (Many who could not attend sponsored a race or a horse or bought raffle tickets)

The Novotel lunch did not disappoint and there was even a 'retail opportunity'.



Some of the ladies wore hats for their 'Day at the Races'!



Happy faces collecting their winnings!

More Photos & Memories of the Day....

Rose: Our Charity Race Lunch & Some Photos showing Very Happy Faces

After a long time thinking about it , thanks to Covid , we eventually had our Charity Race lunch fundraiser. It was a great idea from Alison that started it all . In the end it was a very successful afternoon both from the enjoyment point of view and fundraising. £2,900 was made , much needed to help the charities we support.

All my friends and family who attended had a great time.

Thanks to all who helped make it such a success. **Rose**



Liz & Guests including Patricia from S I Port of Spain

Many thanks to President Sue and SI Manchester for welcoming me to the Fundraising event on Sunday 16th October, and also to Liz for her kind invitation It was lovely meeting everyone and I enjoyed every minute!

I'll share my memories with SI Port of Spain on my return !

In Friendship

Patricia Boyce-Forgenie

S.I. Port of Spain



What an event! What a day!

My friends and I had never attended a race event , however, the excitement, atmosphere, delicious food and friendship meant we thoroughly had a blast 🌟 enjoyed every aspect of the event! Confirmation in the smiles!

Thanks to Alison, Rose and everyone for a memorable event!

In friendship

Liz

Carole, Jaz & Val

My first experience of being involved in S I Manchester's fund raising and what a baptism.

Amazing!

All members involved and making a contribution.

Lovely memories of a special day.

Carole



This is the first big club event since I joined the club. I offered to help if I could have a sitting down job and was duly asked to sell the race bets on the Tote. I had to sell the bets for the horses numbered 1 and 2 for each of the 8 races. It was great fun and the Tote was extremely well organised. All the punters were so generous in making their bets and hopes were very high for their horses to win. All very enjoyable and exciting.

Val

I had the pleasure of attending another charity lunch organized by the Manchester Soroptimists. As in previous years, the event was very well organized and was a perfect combination of good food, meeting interesting women involved in the organisation as well as fundraising for charities helping women in need all over the world. At the event there was an opportunity to purchase original Italian clothes, bet on a horse or a take part in a raffle. Everyone had lots of fun and at the same time was able to support various projects supported by the Soroptimists. In short, women (along with their families and friends) showing amazing support for other women. I would like to give big thank you to Sue Underwood, the President of Soroptimists Manchester, for inviting me to this lovely event.

Jaz

Shena & Barry

From the greetings on arrival, to the location, meal, entertainment and friendship, this could not be faulted.

An excellent day.

Shena



Lillian, Fellow Soroptimists & Friends



It was an honour to attend the most successful event of Soroptimist Manchester. What a lovely afternoon it was. All our guests loved every bit of it. The atmosphere of the event and sisterhood was impeccable. It gave me joy and pride to be a Soroptimist but most of all the genesis behind the cause to enable, educate and empower women and girls. A big thank you to the organisers and our guests.

Lillian



South Lancashire Regional Past Presidents Lunch

Kathleen, Val and I met for a very enjoyable lunch at Statham Lodge together with other Past Regional Presidents.

It was a pleasure to catch up whilst eating delicious food.

We started talking about how many Regional Presidents Manchester had supplied.... 5 we believe....the three pictured here,

Kathleen Beavis,

Val Moss,

Sue Underwood,

plus the late Yvonne Mullen

and Evelyn Nicholls.

I consider that Yvonne was represented in spirit because I have, and was wearing, her Past Presidents badge!

Sue Underwood



Thinking of Kathleen.....our Lifetime Honorary Member

On the Wednesday after the lunch (19th October) Kathleen fell and broke her hip. She had the operation on the Friday at Bangor Hospital.

After about three weeks Kathleen was moved to a non-acute hospital and started to make more progress thanks to more consistent physiotherapy.

Daughter Hilary and son Mike are leading the battle to have everything place to enable Kathleen to come home.

You will see that being Kathleen, her 'Christmas Greetings' and 'Memories of the Queen' were dictated to Hilary and submitted to the Newsletter!

Sending love and 'Get Well' wishes from us all... **President Sue**

SI Leeds Literary Prize

I enjoyed taking part in the judging for this year's SI Leeds Literary Prize. This is a biennial prize for unpublished fiction by UK based Black and Asian women, to help them reach new audiences in mainstream culture. All of the six short-listed authors receive benefits including professional development support and networking events.

We agreed to read at least fifty pages of each book and then rank them. I did this first but had time to read them all, starting with the one that appealed the most. This was "The Taste of a Planet" by Arianne Maki. I'm a big fan of Science Fiction and this book is set in a Japanese colony on a newly settled planet. I loved how she gave a voice to unusual non-verbal characters.

Next was "When You're Smiling" which is about a Leicester Muslim family united/divided by their love/hatred of football in a surprising year for the team. Even though I detest pretty much everything football related, I quite enjoyed this.

All of the books were excellent, and the winners were the ones I liked the least.

If you enjoy reading, have a think about taking part in 2024.

Elaine Loader

(Interestingly, "When You're Smiling" came high on the lists of two other judges I've spoken to – Barbara Blaber & my friend Sharon – Sharon has a similar opinion on football but Barbara loves football & knows Leicester very well indeed! You can find out more about the writers and excerpts from their entries at

<https://www.sileedsliteraryprize.com/>

Sue Underwood)



*2022 trophy made by
Seiko Kinoshita*

Elaine's Break in 'God's Own Country'



At the start of October, Soo and I took a short mid-week break in the western part of "God's Own Country".

First stop was Shibden Hall of Anne Lister / Gentleman Jack TV series fame. It was as atmospheric as it looks on TV, though I was surprised how small and cosy it was.

We enjoyed learning about Anne Lister – who was a trail-blazer in many respects. She was the first person to reach the summit of Mt Vignemale, wearing hitched skirts, silk stockings and sturdy boots. She then had to battle for her feat to be recognised - she pipped a prince to the post. He wasn't best pleased, so he lied!

We then popped into the Bankfield Museum in nearby Halifax, to see the costumes from the TV series. I'm planning a return trip, as my mum was jealous and wants to go too.

Then we headed up to Saltaire, which is the model township built by Sir Titus Salt on the banks of the River Aire (can you see what he did there?). The scale of his ambition for the town and the quality of the architecture was outstanding.

Saltaire Almshouses

He had a very un-Victorian approach to education, health and social care. He built schools and provided adult education,



parks and concert halls. For injured and infirm workers he built beautiful alms-houses around a green with weeping willows. The mill is now an arts centre with permanent exhibitions from "local lad done good" David Hockney.

We enjoyed Yorkshire / Indian fusion "tapas" at a great pub called "Don't tell Titus" – no pubs were allowed in Titus's day. I couldn't resist the toad in



the hole, paired with aubergine curry and chips with gravy (dahl). A curious mix but delicious.

Both myself and Soo enjoy canals and canal boats – I grew up next to one and Soo's family have owned a few. So we popped over to Bingley Five Rise Locks for a look. Lovely café there with amazing selection of cakes and even my favourite rum and raisin ice-cream.

I can't believe we did so much in just 30 hours. I'd thoroughly recommend all the above, though I think the Five Rise Locks is a bit niche.

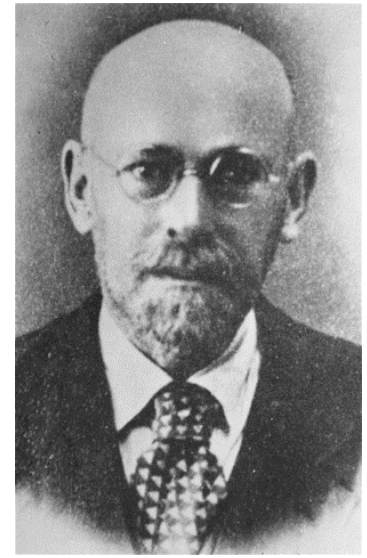


Elaine Loader with Photos by Soo Rose-Cook

Malgorzata - A Visit to Poland in October 2022

Malgorzata was invited to attend a **Conference in Poland in October to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of Janusz Korczak's death.**

Janusz Korczak was the pen name of Henryk Goldszmit, a Polish Jewish doctor and author. Goldszmit first gained fame in the early 1900s writing storybooks for children and childcare books for adults. Born into a highly assimilated Polish Jewish family in Warsaw in the late 1870s, Goldszmit trained as a paediatrician. He developed ground breaking views on raising children, urging adults to treat them with both love and respect. As his reputation as an author grew, Goldszmit became known throughout Poland as Janusz Korczak.
(From the Holocaust Encyclopaedia <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/>)



Janusz Korczak was a paediatrician by profession, a writer, an educator and a scholar but he dedicated his life to children and to setting up orphanages for children who were not able to be with families and had to face wars, hunger and multiple deprivations. He died in 1942 in Treblinka Extermination Camp together with over 200 children. When offered to be freed by the Nazis, he refused as he felt that his life would have no meaning if he allowed the children to perish and he himself was to be invited to build a new educational system of post-war Germany. He refused the invitation to be free and remained with the children to the very end.

The event in Warsaw, titled **Janusz Korczak and Children; “Lessons from the Past and Hope for the Future”** was organised by the Polish Parliamentary Group for Children and the International Janusz Korczak Association, supported by The Maria Grzegorzewska University and Korczak University. The events took place under the Patronage of the Marshall of the Polish Sejm/Parliament of the Republic of Poland, Prof Tomasz Grodzki.



The conference addressed many issues relevant to children in the modern world. The events and discussions included a range of workshops: ‘Various Faces of Violence’, ‘A Call for the Rights of the Child’, ‘Children’s Citizenship and Participation’, ‘Social Professions in the Service of the Child’.

The main Parliamentary session addressed the issues of Korczak’s vision of the world and recognized him as the leading Pedagogue and a pioneering advocate for children.

The opening speech was delivered by special guest Maria Santos Pais, who, with her many years spent in the United Nations, referred to obstacles that children have to face in the present world.

The current Chair of the International Janusz Korczak Association, Dr Marek Michalak, in his speech referred to his recent book; **“Stories about what has a Real Meaning in Life”** which was written in the spirit of Korczak’s values. The event in the Parliament lasted a whole day and in the

context of the situation in Ukraine gave us a great opportunity to evaluate what is happening in the context of the war.

From a personal point of view, I listened to the complexity of issues of today from the children’s perspective. The world of today, which we have co-created, is not a good place for the children of the future. Korczak often said that we must never leave the world as it is but try and change it so that future generations of children can have hope and respect and be free from wars and violence. Do we learn from history? Do we create a just world? Or do we need different type of economics and justice? Can the Convention on the Rights of the Child help, educate and empower our children.... many questions and less answers in these challenging times.





The second day of this important event was attended by many people from Poland but also many other countries and was spent in Treblinka, where we visited the Treblinka Museum and planted trees in Memory of Korczak and all those who died with him, including children and other teachers and social workers who perished in the gas chambers of Treblinka Camp. A maple tree was planted by the International Janusz Korczak Association of which the UK is a member and other countries followed with planting a maple tree in memory of children and Korczak.

We must never forget the atrocities of the wars and how far a human being can go into the darkness of inhumanity and evil. Does this strike with any similarities today?

In 1974 a book came out in Britain, titled "Into the Darkness" written by a British Journalist Gitta Sereny. Gitta interviewed many Nazi criminals who had leading war roles during the Second World War. One of them was Franz Stangl who was the SS officer and Commander of the Treblinka Extermination Camp, he was described, ominously, by the Nazis as "the best of the Commandants" in Nazi Extermination Camps. Stangl migrated/escaped to Brazil after the war and it was not until the end of his life that he for the first time had to

face himself, his guilt and the atrocities he committed in his leading roles in extermination camps of Sobibor and Treblinka. For a long time when Gitta Sereny tried to interview him about the role he played in the war, his answers were.. "I have never intentionally hurt anyone, myself". However, when Stangl was on his death bed many years later in the last interview with Gitta Sereny, he said "but I was there" admitting to individual and collective guilt. He talked about his guilt at the end of his life, next to him, on the table were some pages of Janusz Korczak quotations lifted from some books. Stangl faced himself and reached for the truth at the very end of his life. On his death bed he connected with the truth.

The war in Ukraine continues, we can only hope that we can learn from history and this war will also come to an end. The October events in Poland were incredible and highly emotionally charged. I remain so grateful for this invitation.

It was such joy to be in Poland at this important event and in the current context of the world to be able to connect with Korczakians from all over the world. My humanity and belief that we all have to face ourselves is strengthened and reinforced. We must never forget. It is in trying to leave this world a better place ... says Janusz Korczak, we face to our individual and collective actions. I found it inspiring that children were present in the Parliament and they listened and heard the presentations and stories.

We as Soroptimists must never lose sight of what our humanity is capable of.... both in the direction of good and evil. I am delighted to share this event with fellow Soroptimists.

Malgorzata Kmita

A Card from "Plastic Terry"

"Plastic Terry" collects the plastic bottle tops you bring for recycling and converts them into cash for the Brain and Spinal Injury Centre (BASIC).



Our Friendship Links Shared Their Memories of Queen Elizabeth II



Heartfelt Condolences Received from S I Grosse Pointe

Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe, Michigan, USA, send our condolences to all UK club members on the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. She was revered by Americans and was greeted en masse whenever she visited here. It was her visit to Canada in 1984 that forged the 'International Canadian-American Freedom Festival' we celebrate jointly and annually here in Detroit, Michigan, USA, alongside Windsor, Ontario, CANADA

U.S. President Biden decreed our national flags be flown at half-staff in her honour for the duration of her internment.

Queen Elizabeth's strength as a leader is testament to what SI is about. She who stands up for what she thinks is right, even in the face of opposition, yet maintains grace and gives respect to all regardless of their views, is a woman to be admired and held in high esteem.

We are sorry for the world's loss, and for yours.

Best for Women,

Nancy Solak, Friendship Link Chair

I replied on your behalf:

Dear President and members of SI Grosse Pointe

We thank you and truly appreciate your words at this sad time.

SI Manchester was chartered in 1926, the year of Queen Elizabeth's birth, we quietly hoped that we would be celebrating our centenaries 'together'.

I was born in 1952 and I am in awe of, and humbled by all that Queen Elizabeth has achieved in her 70 year reign of phenomenal changes.

I am on holiday in France so have only the media and experience of friends to assess the atmosphere at home, but 'surreal' and 'disbelief' are words that keep appearing.....as well as concern for the welfare of her beloved corgis.

Thank you Nancy for the history of the origin of the International Canadian-American Freedom Festival....I for one did not know that!

As you say, "Queen Elizabeth's strength as a leader is testament to what SI is about"..... now we have Queen Consort Camilla at King Charles' side. She has shown her support for Soroptimism in the past, long may that continue.

Thank you all for thinking of us

In friendship

President Sue

Sue Underwood

President Soroptimist International of Manchester

Marilyn Hanson, SI Wichita

I have fond memories of the Queen. When I was young we had a family friend who was from Great Britain. He told us stories about the then Princess. How she couldn't pronounce her name. My little sister named her doll Lilibet. I got up at 3:00 in the morning to listen to her wedding ceremony on the radio.

We were in London at Christmas time and saw the preparation for her coronation, which I also listened to on the radio.

She was a gracious lady whom we all miss.

Members of S I Essen Victoria

Anne-Dore Quack

England is my second home from childhood on as my aunt and uncle lived in Manchester and I loved visiting them and the country as often as possible. Therefore Queen Elisabeth was part of my life as well. I admired her especially for her friendliness, respectfulness and correctness.

Kathrin Groddeck

Since 2012, this tea towel has been hanging in my study. It was issued for the 60th anniversary of the throne of Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth II.

I got it for my 60th birthday, also in 2012. That means, throughout my whole life, Queen Elizabeth II has accompanied me. In addition, the Queen is about the same age as my mother, and my two brothers and I are nearly the same age as her children Charles, Anne and Andrew. Many parallels!

Other rulers came and went, many prime ministers came and went. With her sovereign manner, her unshakable attitude and her great dignity, she was an institution and a role model for entire generations. For this, people all over the world have admired and adored her. Unbelievable that she is no longer there! She will never be forgotten. RIP



Dorothee Garms

The Queen and a German girl / About a great personality

Her Coronation took place in 1953, I was born two years later. In this way, the Queen has been around "all my life". At first, as a little girl and a backfish, I certainly admired the aura of royalty, her beautiful dresses and jewels. And of course the Queen's closeness to nature, her handling of horses and dogs.

As I grew older and began to think politically, this rather romantic attitude faded and it became clear to me that, in view of our history, it is impossible for a German to be a royalist. Nevertheless, I still had a deep respect for the Queen's personality: It was and it is admirable how this woman put her private life behind what she saw as her duty. Admirable, too, the way the Queen fulfilled this duty: With perseverance until the very end, and at the same time with a sense of humour that shone through again and again - despite the glaring spotlights that were constantly directed at her and her family.

The fact that this monarch, despite her role being limited by the constitution, also tried to work politically for the good of the kingdom, I only understood rather late, but appreciated all the more.

A strong, admirable woman!

The United Kingdom (and a lot of soroptimists) will miss her. I do too.



September 9th 2022

Members of Soroptimist International Manchester are saddened by the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II after a lifetime of service.....Rest In Peace

Kathleen's Memories of Queen Elizabeth II

At the time of the Silver Jubilee (1975) the Queen visited Manchester and passed through Chorlton. When she turned and waved to the pupils of my school lining the pavement I was very aware of her exquisite complexion and engaging smile.

Many years later I had the honour of representing the Soroptimists at a garden party at the Palace. After refreshments when people were walking on the lawns the weather suddenly changed and snow fell. I was most impressed by the way in which Her Majesty concerned herself with the care and needs of others by ushering them into the Royal Tent before taking cover herself. A wonderful example of kindness and humanity.

Kathleen Beavis

Memories of Coronation Frenzy & Another Queen

In June 1953 I was 7 years old, the country had been in a state of Coronation frenzy for several months. These unforgettable months, the Coronation day and my 2 week visit to London with it's fantastic atmosphere have created lifelong incredible memories.

I was at that time in primary3 of my infant school. Everything was so exciting, knitting red, white and blue scarves creating and painting wobbly union jacks, making red, white and blue paper chains and paper coronets and learning to sing the national anthem. We were all involved in crowning our own school queen and prince (a girl and boy from year 6) Our form teacher brought in some old maroon curtains from her home and I clearly remember the great fun we had making cotton wool "ermine" trimmings and of course we were all given a Coronation mug, such excitement!!

My childhood was in the small town of Houghton Le Spring, situated halfway between Durham City and Sunderland. A Coronation organising committee was established to co-ordinate local events. Street parties were frantically organised and bunting, balloons and flags abounded. The local churches worked together and on the Sunday prior to the Coronation, on Tuesday the 2nd of June, a grand parade took place which marched through the town. This was led by the colliery brass band, the Salvation Army musicians and boys brigade buglers. The bands were followed by several men carrying colliery banners (there were several coal mines in the local vicinity) which were usually only unfurled at the great miner's gala held annually in Durham city. These were followed by civic dignitaries and the children of all the Sunday schools in the town. I was very proud to parade in my brownie uniform to a large field behind the Parish church where



community hymn singing was led by the many church choirs. Age 7, 'Dark Satanic mills' and 'countenance divine' puzzled me as Jerusalem was led by the Methodist male voice choir.

In 1953 very few homes had their own television sets and the local Anglican Church had hired large screen TVs to enable the local population to see the ceremony. However my father announced that we were acquiring our own set we were the first in the street, as at that time a large roof ariel was required to gain reception, so the few owners were well known locally.

A few days prior to the Coronation a large cupboard with doors was delivered, inside was a complex looking 14 inch TV (many were 9 or 12 inches with perspex magnifying screens). This threw my mother into manic mode as she realised extended family and neighbours would expect an invitation to view. Rationing was still strictly adhered to regarding food, however our neighbour was the manager of the local co-op store and was invited. (?)Black market ham, spam, cheese and butter were delivered and, in conjunction with tins of salmon sent from my mother's cousins in America, enabled her to commence mass sandwich making activities. I don't think she could have seen much of the Coronation as about 30 were crammed into our best front room (only used at Christmas and other deemed important occasions) and were served endless tea and sandwiches. The rain poured all day and I remember the Queen looked very beautiful in her magnificent gown. All the friends and neighbours sang a specially composed song "In a Golden Coach" I can still remember the words.

*In a golden coach, there's a heart of gold
Driving through old London town
With the sweetest Queen the world's ever seen
Wearing her golden crown.
As she drives in state through the palace gate
Her beauty the whole world will see
In a golden coach there's a heart of gold
That belongs to you and me.*

About 3 months prior to the Coronation I had been informed by my parents that on the 5th of June we were going to London for 2 weeks holiday to stay in Streatham with my uncle, my parents were very keen to give me the experience of a lifetime to soak up the atmosphere in London during the Coronation period. I have so often recollected my childhood memories of such an historic occasion, particularly recently following the death of our Queen Elizabeth II. We travelled from the station in Durham City to Kings Cross on the famous steam engine 'Sir Walter Scott'. On reaching London several hours later I had my first experience of travelling by underground. The city, which we visited the next day, was still fantastically decorated, with many large stands which a few days earlier had been packed with crowds. There appeared to be thousands of overseas visitors, national costumes being worn and so many in military uniform, I was completely overwhelmed. Each day we went to a different venue in the capital my favourites included a boat trip down the Thames to Kew Gardens resplendent in Coronation dressing and my first ever visit to the Tower of London where my father ensured I saw and understood the significance of 'Orb and Sceptre and the Crown' which only a few days earlier had such a significant role in the Coronation.

My most incredible memory however was standing on the steps of St Pauls Cathedral on a day in which a service of thanksgiving was to take place. I watched the parade of royalty and foreign dignitaries travelling up Ludgate Hill when a carriage stopped very near to us and a giant of a lady in fantastic national costume came within feet of where we were standing. She smiled at me in my excited state and only later were we informed that it was Queen Salote of Tonga who was actually six foot three inches tall.

I have such wonderful memories of 70 years ago especially created for me by my late parents. I do so hope that the children of today will be fortunate enough to enjoy similar festivities when our new King Charles III is crowned.

Rosemary Steven

"It Was All About The Queue" [From The Times 'Queen Elizabeth II – Her Life and Reign]

About 250,000 people queued to see the Queen lying in state – The Queue was dominated by women.

Joan Bakewell pointed out what a disruption it was to the normal order of things when, in 1952, a very young woman became our Queen. Suddenly this young woman took her place at the global 'top table', upturning the natural look and order of power. [Votes for Women was still young – no sign of Women's Liberation or any waves of Feminism] Most of us have only ever known a world where one of the most powerful people in it was a woman.

Times columnist **Caitlin Moran** reflected that "the image that stayed with me, seen over and over in Westminster Hall, was the innumerable women who, for their moment in front of the Queen's coffin, blew a kiss to the Queen and mouthed 'thank you' before smiling and then bursting into tears.....in that moment, no subject or monarch, just a woman saying goodbye to another woman, who they felt – like all women – really had tried their best."

Sue Underwood

16 Days of Activism

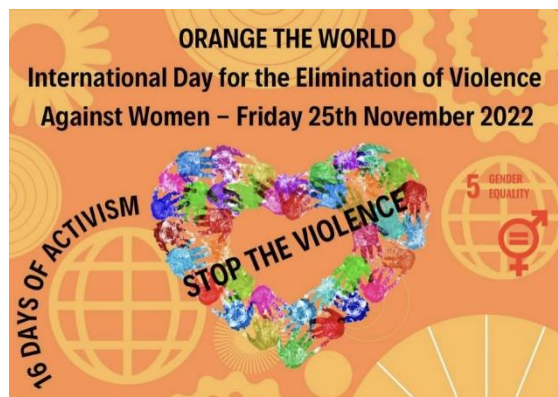
.....S I Manchester's Facebook Posts:



25 November to 10 December

#16DaysOfActivism Day 1

Today, on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, we begin #16DaysOfActivism
#Soroptimists join UN Women in the call upon EVERYONE to play their part in ending violence against women and girls EVERYWHERE.
#EndViolenceAgainstWomen
#OrangeTheWorld



#16DaysOfActivism Day 2

#16DaysOfActivism Day 3



and other help to women in need and in particular those escaping Domestic Violence.
We also delivered a large Christmas Tree .

Soroptimist Manchester members delivering pyjamas and dressing gowns for Christmas Presents to the women who access Emmeline's Pantry. Emmeline's Pantry provide a food bank

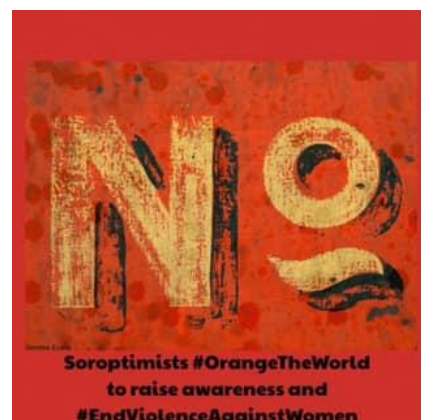


#16DaysOfActivism Day 4

One of the projects that we support is Women MATTA, a Women's Centre in Manchester that provides intense, holistic support to women affected by the criminal justice system and to those at risk. Members and friends are donating over 200 2023 diaries to help the women they support to keep organised and take control of their lives.

[#16DaysOfActivism](#)

[#womenmatta](#)



#16DaysOfActivism Day 5



We made our donation in the Big Give Week so that it would be doubled

MASH stand with women who sex work & help them to experience good health, safety and emotional wellbeing in a welcoming and non-judgemental drop-in centre, through an in-house clinic or via the street outreach team and MASH van.

[MASH Manchester Action on Street Health]



#16DaysOfActivism Day 6



We made our donation in the Big Give Week so that it would be doubled



Act4Africa's strategy H.E.A.L supports women and girls in Uganda, Africa to thrive independently through a transformative and holistic approach to **H**ealth, **E**ducation, **A**griculture and **L**ivelihoods.....including 'Kathy's Kindergarten', 'Adolescent Mothers' programme (225 mothers over 2 years), 'Grains for Growth' & Water source for communities.

#16DaysOfActivism Day 7 #WorldAIDsDay



'Our' large tents are being well used by Act4Africa!

Did you know that girls aged 13 to 24 have a significantly higher chance of catching HIV than boys?

In honour of World AIDs Day, Act4Africa and Reproductive Health Uganda is currently providing HIV testing, guidance and counselling, cancer screenings, and mental and emotional support to the locals in Mayuge District. More than 200 persons are present to utilise these services.

The theme for World AIDS Day in 2022 is Equalize.

The catchphrase "Equalize" is a call to action. We must all work to implement the tried-and-true strategies required to alleviate disparities and contribute to ending AIDS #Equalize

#16DaysOfActivism Day 8

#moderndayslavery

Member Fabiola gave a very informative talk on AFRUCA (Africans Unite Against Child Abuse)

AFRUCA works in UK Black and Ethnic communities to protect and safeguard children from abuse, modern slavery, and exploitation. She particularly spoke about 'county lines' and different forms of 'modern slavery' which can affect children from any ethnicity.



#16DaysOfActivism Day 9



As a Club we have decided to put a small amount of our reserves to work with [Lendwithcare](#) 'Change a Life with a Loan from £15'.... Entrepreneurs living in low-income countries are bursting with ideas - all they need is a helping hand to get started.



#16DaysOfActivism Day 10

'The Third Power Women!'

For many years we have supported 'New Hope Rural Leprosy Trust' a small NGO in rural India, working with the poorest. NEW approaches to changing attitudes that are so often tilted against the disadvantaged, the poor, women & children.....

HOPE that given the opportunity to change, the poor will know equality.

Our recent projects include:

Knitting beanie hats for children living in hill tribes with cold winters

Financing a young woman's two year nursing course

Selling tea bags grown and packaged by the girls & seniors



“There are two powers in the world; one is the sword and the other is the pen. There is a third power stronger than both, that of women.

MALALA YOUSAFZAI

Excerpt from 'I Am Malala: The Story of the Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban'



#16DaysOfActivism Day 11 International Volunteer Day for Economic & Social Development



Soroptimist International is a volunteering organisation transforming lives of women and girls. This is also our Day when we with volunteers of the world celebrate the work for economic and social development in our communities. Such organizations work on peace, justice and embrace the Sustainable Development Goals.

This morning, with the help and support of Volunteers from 'Friends of Didsbury Park, we planted a 'Wedding Cake Tree'. Thanks to their Chairman Brian for digging the hole President Sue & members planted & watered it well in!

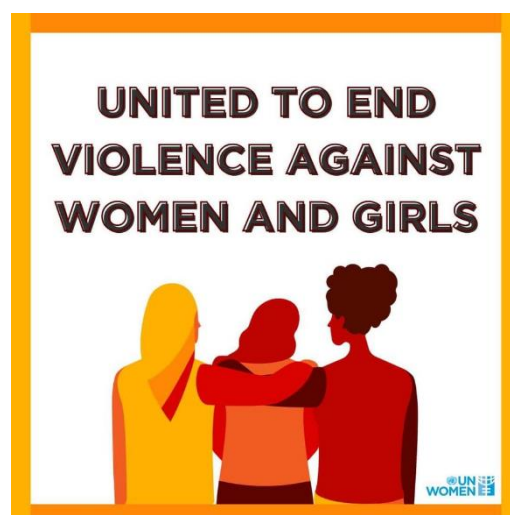
#16DaysOfActivism Day 12

December 6th 1989 was the day when 14 women students were murdered for being women who were progressing to be engineers (Montreal Massacre)

Soroptimists worldwide reflect on this act of misogyny that revealed a rigid mind set uncomfortable with women progressing into non-traditional roles.

Today we remember and regret that, despite feminist progress, misogynist attitudes towards them remain.

Remembering the day [#16daysofactivism](#) at [#OrangetheWorld](#) [#GenerationEquality](#)



#16DaysOfActivism Day 13



'Hug-in-a-Mug' time again
We packed over 100 mugs with sachets of tea, coffee, hot chocolate, biscuit & chocolate. Each mug wrapped in biodegradable film to be delivered to the Womens Aid Refuges.

One of the mugs will be given to any woman entering a Manchester Refuge escaping domestic violence..... A Hug & a Mug of her own #littletthingsmakeadifference



#16DaysOfActivism Day 14



YOU ARE NOT ALONE

President Sue and Sophie have delivered the 250 donated diaries

Also £150 donation and 3 bags of clothes, toiletries and underwear. They were very grateful!



Women MATTA, is a Women's Centre in Manchester that provides intense, holistic support to women affected by the criminal justice system and to those at risk. Members and friends are donated 2023 diaries to help the women they support to keep organised and take control of their lives.



#16DaysOfActivism Day 15



Sexual harassment is any unwanted sexual behaviour that makes someone feel upset, scared, offended or humiliated, or is meant to make them feel that way. It could be in the workplace or anywhere - more than 80% of women in the UK have been subjected to sexual harassment.

#OrangeTheWorld
#pushforward

#16DaysOfActivism Day 16: December 10th Human Rights Day

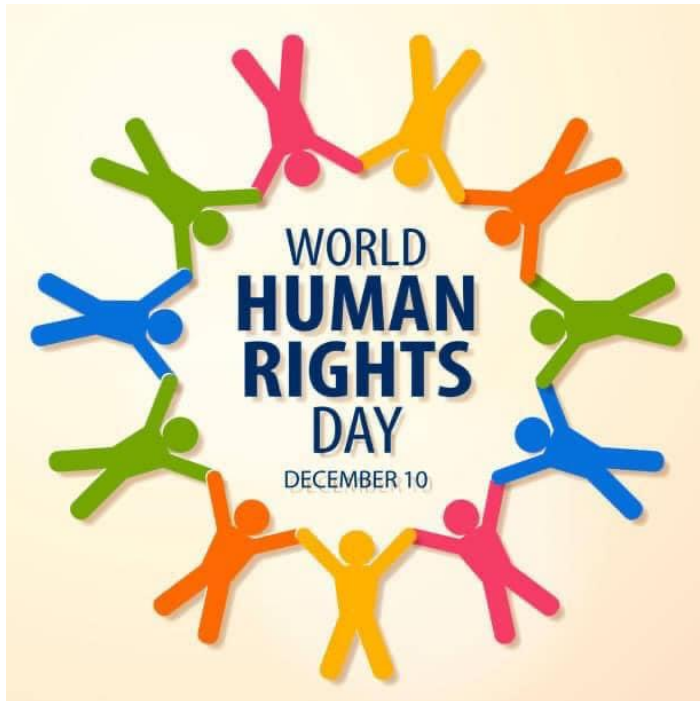
On December 10th 1948 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**

From **UN Women**.....

The world needs stronger protection mechanisms for women human rights defenders and women's rights advocates and activists.

Soroptimists call for these 16 Days of Activism to lead to 365 days of Action

Are you with us?



UN WOMEN



Soroptimists call for these 16 Days of Activism to lead to 365 days of Action

Are you with us?

A Big Thank You to All Our Supporters!



WomenMATTAs were thrilled to receive our Christmas donations.

As we did last year, SI Manchester members, along with supporters and members of other SI clubs, collected a phenomenal **250** diaries for the Service Users being

supported at this time of year. The diaries go into Christmas bags, along with other festive items, and are given to the women during the Charity's Christmas lunch. The club also donated £150 which went towards the other festive contributions.

WomenMATTAs supports vulnerable and marginalised women, including those affected by the Criminal Justice System. They provide holistic services to address issues relating to domestic and sexual abuse, substance misuse, mental health, housing, parenting, education, employment, poverty and debt.

When President Sue and Sophie went into WomenMATTAs to deliver the items they showed us their clothes bank which can be accessed by all of their service users and for the first time since we have been supporting it was bare...



So..... we appealed to all members and friends and over the weekend we collected 25 bags of clothes and delivered them in time for their Christmas party so all of the women would be able to choose from a selection of warm clothes, coats and comfy shoes.

Thanks also to Julie Cook and members of SI Leigh for their kind contribution and delivering their bags to us in Trafford.

Sophie Kennedy

(....just to highlight the 'Soroptimist Rapid Response', we saw the empty shelves on Thursday 8th and the 25 bags were delivered on Monday 12th!.... many thanks to Sophie & Soroptimister Kev for all of the running about and delivery services! President Sue)



Renuka, her story so far

The following is from Eliazar at New Hope, Orissa, about Renuka, the young woman we are sponsoring for a two year nursing course. This was arranged at the end of last year. I'm sure you will all find this very interesting and it is so good to hear directly from the people we are helping.

Maureen

Dear Maureen and Sorooptimist friends - Good news.



Renuka has been at one the 'strictest' Nursing Colleges we have ever dealt with. They have a good policy that "you are here to learn Nursing and not how to use a Cellphone..." - NO cell phone permitted - full stop. (It has become an unbelievable distraction in schools and there is a move to ban them/ the students and teachers having Cells in a classroom)



Renuka just sat her second last exam and her second last Practical - and TOP RANK MARKS.

Am waiting to hear when finals are being scheduled.

Hoping that when the 'course is finished' - meaning all exams are over and the they leave the College and wait months for results and Report Card!!! (Red tape) - that Renuka will be back with us and help out in the HIV Dispensary.

NEWS: HIV DISPENSARY. We are based in the north of the Andhra Pradesh State. Each State has Districts with a District Centre town. A District would be like a Diocese. Each District town has a District Hospital - It deals with every type of disease. Ironically in our District the leprosy Department and the HIV-ASIDS are in the same 'Block'. HIV+ persons go once a month to the District Hospital and collect their Anti Retro Viral Drugs Short form ART (Anti Retro Treatment)

Persons - mainly widows and orphan born HIV young people travel 4 to 5 hours each way to get their monthly medicines. Many change 2 buses. There are now HIV persons Action Groups. They have pressurized the Government for de-centralized Dispensaries. Now Primary Health Care Centres (PHCC) will be issuing the drugs. Their area would be like a Parish!



The State Government selected only 4 Non-Government Organizations to act as major Dispensaries. Meaning instead of being like a PHCC - these 4 NGO will cover people in 3 Mandals (Parishes) NEW HOPE is the one selected for the norther area of our Vizianagaram District,

NO financial support! - We just accept that - as it is a 'social service' to very disadvantaged widows and certainly young people.

I don't know how to explain the social negativity of being a widowed HIV person -(Almost like my mother when her family found out she had leprosy and put her out - literally on the street).

SO - until Renuka gets a Government Nursing appointment we are hoping she will work here with us in the ART Centre we are organising. (Shuffling Hospice Wards around!)

Long letter - just to say how incredible the support you have given for Renuka has many parts.

Thankful – Regards
Eliazar



**Thank you Soroptimist International Manchester for all your support for our
Adolescent Young Mothers programme**

This video shows why your support is so very, very valuable
[Act4Africa Strong Mothers Club](#)

Kigongo Patrick

Martha Benny

Waiswa Moses

Harriet Nakirya

Nalumanzi Theresa

Jennifer Akullu

Grace Takali

Nankumbi Daisy

Mirembe Prassy

Nakirya Joan

Vincent de Paul

**Festive Greetings from
Act4Africa Uganda**

Dates for Your Diary

Tuesday 3 rd January	6:30 for 7pm
Tuesday 17 th January	7pm
Wednesday 18 th January	7pm
Tuesday 7 th February	6:30 for 7pm
Saturday 18th February	7pm
Tuesday 21 st February	7pm
Saturday 4 th March	From 10am
Sunday 5th March	12:30 for 1pm
Tuesday 7 th March	6:30 for 7pm
Tuesday 21 st March	7pm
Tuesday 4 th April	7pm
Tuesday 18 th April	7pm

Club Meeting - Time for Reflection
 Executive Meeting at Pat Usher's home
 Zoom – Programme Action Meeting
 Club Meeting – Speaker from the Medaille Trust
Pancake Party at Fiona's – details to follow
 Executive Meeting – details to follow
 South Lancs Region PAC & Council Meeting
97th Charter Lunch – details to follow
 Club Meeting – details to follow
 Executive Meeting – details to follow
 Annual General Meeting & Club Meeting
 Executive Meeting – details to follow

Further information & Social events – Watch for emails! - See <https://sigbi.org/manchester/meetings-and-events/>



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 **Friday 31st March**, please.

What have you learned about yourself & others?

Tell your story! ... Learning to live with COVID19 ... Your life in 2023 v 2019

Share your **S-O-R-O-P-T-I-M-I-S-T** words

Review your Soroptimism ... Newer Members please introduce yourselves!

Anything else you would like to share? Personal anecdotes always welcome

Sue Underwood sueuhome@sky.com

Last Words from a Woman, two Men & a Dog, who could/should have been Soroptimists!

"There can be no
The Cool Shady Tree
 greater gift than
 that of giving one's
 time and energy to
 help others without
 expecting anything
 in return"

- Nelson Mandela



TIS' THE SEASON TO BE GRATEFUL!

The 3 C's of Life:

CHOICES
 CHANCES
 CHANGES

You must make the

CHOICE
 to take a
 CHANCE

if you want anything to

CHANGE

:

Zig Ziglar



Freedom cannot be achieved unless
 women have been emancipated from
 all forms of oppression.

Nelson Mandela

TOPICS word of the day...

Spuddle: a useful verb from
 the 17th century that means
 to work feebly and
 ineffectively, because your
 mind is elsewhere or you
 haven't quite woken up yet.
 To be extremely busy whilst
 achieving absolutely
 nothing.



Christmas Greetings from Our Friendship Links

S I Essen Victoria, Germany

Dear Soroptimist Sisters and Friends of Manchester,
hopefully all of you are as healthy as possible.
After 2 years of corona our club was able to restart quite well again this year.
But the war in the Ukraine, the inflation, and the lack of gas change our lives dramatically at the moment. I do hope that the democratic world will stand together in the future!
In the name of all our club sisters

I wish you Merry Christmas and optimism and courage for all the duties in 2023!

Beatrix, President SI Essen Victoria, German



S I Grosse Pointe, Michigan, USA



Malgorzata sends her warmest Christmas and New Year Greetings to all our Friendship Links



Wishing you and your loved ones a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.
Love Susan and David

Merry Christmas!
Wishing You & Yours
Health & Happiness in 2023
President Sue X



Wishing you a peaceful holiday season and a happy and healthy New Year.
Elaine

MERRY CHRISTMAS and A
VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!
Wishing everyone Good Health
Peace and a Positive less
Stressful 2023
Best wishes
Liz 🎄🧑🏻



Best wishes for a very
Happy Christmas and
Healthy New Year to all
members of SI Manchester
Thank you for your love
and friendship of 2022
Val



Wishing my fellow
Soroptimists and their
families a truly Happy
Christmas and a great year
ahead
Love Fiona,
Paul, Alex and Ciara



We wish Soroptimist
friends a very happy
festive season
Best wishes for a
successful and healthy
New Year
Rosemary & Gus



Wishing you all a very
happy festive period and a
healthy and prosperous
New Year.
Much love,
Sophie & Kev xxx

Wishing all S.I.
Manchester members and
their families a Very Happy
Christmas and a Healthy
and Peaceful New Year
Love from Rose
and John



Peace and goodwill to all
Love Kathleen



'Friends are like stars, you
don't always see them but
you know they are there.'
Thank you for welcoming
me into your club. I look
forward to sharing 2023
with you all.
Season's greetings
and good wishes
Carole



Warm wishes to you all
for
Christmas
and 2023
Love from Maureen H



I would like to wish all my
Soroptimist friends
a happy Christmas & a
prosperous New Year
Sue Harris



Njideka, Angela & Joanna are sending
well wishes and lots of fun to the lovely
ladies of SI Manchester



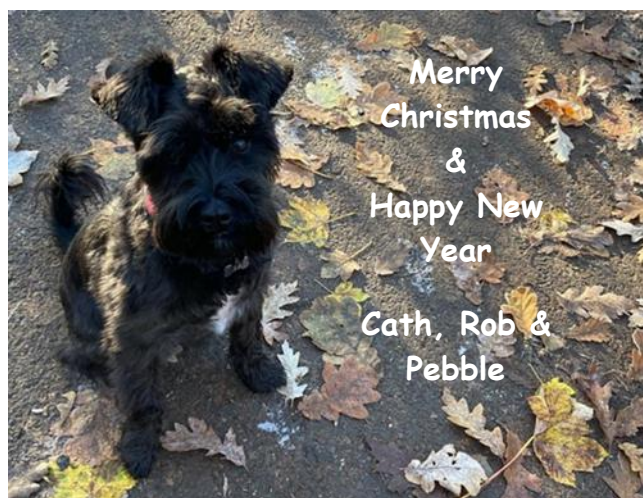
Very best wishes for Christmas and the
New Year to everyone at SI Manchester
Thank you for making me so welcome this
year - Hilary.

FESTIVE GREETINGS



*From Barbara & Steve Blaber
& the Gang*

Happy Christmas to all
Soroptimists and Best Wishes
for 2023
Ann Thomas



Merry
Christmas
&
Happy New
Year

Cath, Rob &
Pebble

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas
and a Healthy New Year
Shena & Barry





Fun, Food and candles for our Friendship Links

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

To All our Members, Friends and Family