



Soroptimist International of Manchester

Spring  
2024  
Issue 85



President: **Sue Underwood**

Dear Club Members,

Once again I started compiling this at the end of January as your 'Woman of 2023' articles began to appear, then in March on my return from a week in Cornwall and I began to realise that my laptop was not happy! Life and technology have played a part in the late publication of this Spring edition, though the weather is remaining far from Springlike in support!

My thanks to those of you who have written articles, but you will see that, for too many events, I have relied on photographs and your brief comments on social media..... I hope that it is still a good read! My special thanks go to Elaine for introducing me to the 'Snipping Tool'!

Again, my challenge to you all is that you should contribute at least one article each for the Summer edition, either emailed or hand written. If you need help with photos then please ask. It is your Newsletter!

**Sue Underwood**



### President's Farewell – President Sue Underwood

There goes another year as President!

Thank you all for your support and enthusiasm, I couldn't have done it without you!

'Food, Fun & Friendship' have prevailed. First we surprised Kathleen on her 97<sup>th</sup> birthday (see page 8) then our 98<sup>th</sup> Charter Lunch (see pages 5-7) followed by SI Leigh's and SI Liverpool's Charter Lunch. On International Women's Day I joined SI Leigh for their Afternoon Tea. We added 'Fundraising' for Fiona's Pancake Party (see page 7). I attended the GM4Women28 Reveal in February, the results are on pages 10 & 11. They did a quick survey of the professions attending, I admitted to being a Soroptimist and was asked to give a brief explanation.....The next GM4Women28 is on Tuesday July 2<sup>nd</sup> at Salford University and we hope to have a table to promote Soroptimism!

South Lancs Region President Pamela's theme this year has been 'Rise Up & Roar' and we've all done our best to spread the word. Special appreciation must go to Fiona for her 'Meet the Mancunian' podcast and also to Sophie for her Facebook campaigns (various examples follow) showcasing our projects, explaining our history and attracting new members....all boding well for our Centenary celebrations.

Yes Kathleen, we are striving to "ensure that Manchester leads the way in these times of change"!

**Immediate Past President Sue**



### Who was Your Woman of 2023?

Inspired by an article I'd read in The Lady, at our January Club meeting I asked who members would like to nominate for their 'Woman of 2023'. The Lady's suggestions included

- Queen Camilla – at 76 she had to start working harder than ever in her life!
- Penny Mordant, Leader of the House of Commons, carrying the heavy sword for an hour during the Coronation
- Mary Earps and The Lionesses
- Brenda Hale, Baroness Hale of Richmond – Lifetime Achievement Award at the Woman of the Year' Awards
- Sarah Lancashire – 'Coronation Street' to 'Happy Valley' via 'Last Tango in Halifax' & 'Lark Rise to Candleford'

Here are your nominations.....who would you choose?

## Maggie Oliver



Maggie Oliver is the former Greater Manchester Police detective who exposed the failings of the police and local authorities in the Rochdale child sex abuse ring. Maggie had the determination and courage to unearth and report the abuse of young white girls by mainly men of Pakistani and Afghan origin. As a result she founded the Maggie Oliver Foundation whose mission is to ‘transform pain into power.’ The planned network of centres will be run by volunteers with support given to victims of sexual abuse in the areas of legal advice, therapy, training and education. As women and girls in our region continue to be subjected to human trafficking, child sexual exploitation and modern day slavery Maggie Oliver thoroughly deserves our recognition and support.

**Carole Swarbrick**

## Olena Želeńska

Olena Želeńska is the wife of Volodymyr Zelenskyy, the President of Ukraine. Since the War started she has spent her time in hiding together with her children but also supporting her husband by doing some international visits and speaking for her Nation.

She grew up in Ukraine and met Volodymyr at school. They studied together at the Economic Institute of Ukraine, she studied Architecture and Design and he studied Law. They have been together since 1995. They faced many challenges together and very hard times caused by the war and its consequences; hunger of the Nation, homelessness and destitution; strains which ripped apart citizens and families in her homeland. She is fully aware how her nation suffers and how different world views impact upon this situation. She has always been supportive of her Nation and her husband in his difficult role as the President of Ukraine. She has also stood by women rights and formed Olena Želeńska Foundation which deals with Mental Health and Domestic violence issues in Ukraine.



**Malgorzata Kmita**

## Khumi Burton



Khumi Burton, a Wilmslow resident, was awarded an MBE in the New Year’s Honours list for services to the community in Manchester and Cheshire.

Khumi was born in India in 1948 and came to live in Wilmslow in 1976 after marrying a retired major from the Cheshire Regiment. She joined S I Wilmslow, transferring to S I Manchester with three other members when the Wilmslow club closed.

She was very active in the Wilmslow club and always had plenty of exciting ideas including initiating an annual street party – a joint project with Rotary and Lions - to bring local residents and families together along with national and local charities in the north west

In 2003 she was the first south east Asian woman to be appointed Deputy Lieutenant of Greater Manchester and retired on her 75th birthday in 2023.

In 2009, together with her husband, she began to support Combat Stress, the UK’s leading charity for veterans’ mental health, and in 2023 was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Her many other contributions include initiating the Portico Prize for Literature, becoming Team Attache for Turks and Cacos when the Commonwealth Games came to Manchester in 2002, and involvement with the Royal Society of St George, British Red Cross and Crimestoppers.

**Susan Hollick and Pat Usher**

## Christina Gabbittas

Christina Gabbittas was nominated in the Yorkshire Choice Awards for Inspirational Individual of the Year 2023. She has been busy working with the local police forces, local councils and local Soroptimists raising awareness and educating children and young people about county lines and the dangers of carrying knives.

Christina said: "I'm honoured to have been nominated with so many inspiring and deserving individuals. If we can help just one child from being exploited, we will have achieved what we set out to do. It's paramount that we educate from primary age."

Christina is a children's author, poet, storyteller and voiceover artist. She is well known for her rhyming books. Her chief character Felicity Fly deals with childhood fears and how individuals can care and help one another. She is an honorary member of the NSPCC for her dedication to child protection and her fund raising efforts for the charity.

She was born and grew up in Blackburn before moving to Selby where she now lives.



## Val Jenkins

## Kate Garraway



Kate Garraway, a well known journalist and highly successful TV personality, with a happy marriage of many years married to Derek Draper a Psychotherapist and former journalist and political advisor and a mother of Darcey and Billy appear to have it all. She was enjoying life with her fantastic career, domestic bliss and had created a high profile role appearing in several celebrity programmes including Strictly Come Dancing and in November 2019 being a contestant in I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out Here. Little could she have ever envisaged that when she was joyfully greeted by her husband and delighted children in Australia, as she left her time in the jungle in a credible 4th position that, in a very short period her life was to irrevocably change. In March 2020, as Covid so rapidly spread, terrifying us all, Kate and her family were devastated when Derek became a victim of the Pandemic and was hospitalised for over 13 months, one of the longest survivors of Coronavirus.

He died on the 3rd January 2024 after a prolonged fight with Long Covid which left him in a coma and desperately battling sepsis and a myriad of complications. He was 56 years old, their daughter Darcey being 17 and son Billy 14. Throughout almost 4 years Kate bravely carried on facing constant press coverage with total candour and complete honesty. At the forefront of the public eye she never failed to share her domestic struggles in coping as a devastated wife and carer whilst supporting their teenage children and maintaining a demanding career. She ensured through her high profile that the public were constantly made aware of the dreadful ongoing issues so many Covid survivors were facing and struggling to cope post Covid. Life had dramatically changed not only for her family and she soon became a champion figure highlighting the problems of so many.

In 2022 Kate was awarded an MBE for services to broadcasting and charity. In June 2023 when presented by Prince William at Windsor Castle with her award her husband accompanied her in his wheelchair. She at that time described it as absolutely incredible that he was able to attend.

In 2021 she published a book "The Power of Hope" which became a best seller a memoir about Derek's battle with Covid 19 and the many issues faced, sharing the raw and emotional story of the devastating impact on her family. At the National Television Awards for the second consecutive year she was the winner of the Documentary, Caring For Derek. She became extremely emotional when paying tribute to Derek for his incredible fighting spirit and describes the mental toil she and so many others were facing caring for loved ones in the Covid aftermath. In adversity she demonstrated such courage whilst consistently highlighting that she was only one of so many facing the ongoing indescribable mountain of issues as a result of the Covid Pandemic. Following a cardiac arrest in November 2023 Derek was again hospitalised. Christmas saw Kate and her family constantly surrounding his bedside. Finally on January 3rd 2024 Derek's long struggle ended and he was at peace. His funeral was attended by a host of celebrities including political leaders and TV stars, their daughter Darcey was a brave pallbearer. Kate was back on TV screens 3 weeks later, her usual positive strong and dynamic self, a truly inspirational woman.

## Rosemary Steven

## Lyndsey Burrow

Lyndsey Burrow is the wife of Rob Burrow, the former England Rugby league player and Captain of the Leeds Rhinos Rugby League team. Rob was sadly diagnosed with motor neurone disease in December 2019 at the age of 37.



Since his diagnosis and originally being given two years to live, the couple have shown great bravery and courage in facing up to Rob's illness. They were childhood sweethearts and had a good life with three lovely children, good jobs, holidays. But everything changed with the onset of MND and Lyndsey now has become Rob's full-time carer. She is a hands-on mum who also works hard to ensure that her children have as normal a life as possible. She has said that she wants live up to her marriage vows of "in sickness and in health" by caring for Rob by herself, moreover that his MND has taught her not to take things for granted, make the most of what you have, not what you don't have and to live in the here and now. She is the smiling face of the family, showing resilience and a determination to carry on with fundraising and public appearances, all the time knowing that her time with her husband will be cut short. She never lets the Burrow side down.

I am full of admiration for Lyndsey in showing this strength and determination to carry on against all the odds with her selfless devotion to her husband and family. She is my woman of the year 2023.

**Hilary Dodd**

**(Robert Geoffrey Burrow CBE 26<sup>th</sup> September 1982 – 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2024)**

## Kay Linnell



Kay specialises in forensic accounting and areas of litigation support including civil, family and criminal matters. She is a chartered arbitrator, an accredited mediator, an experienced expert witness and a Soroptimist.

Kathleen (Beavis) first introduced me to Kay in 2003 when I was preparing to be an expert witness on a fraud case involving the computer system I worked with. Kay was a great help by telling me what I should expect in the expert witness world of forensic audit. I have since chatted with her at SIGBI conferences, most recently in London last November, but I had no idea of her involvement in The Post Office Scandal until I watched 'Mr Bates v The Post Office'!

The 'Post Office Horizon IT Scandal' is ongoing after more than two decades (Mr Bates' story begins in 1998)

Kay Linnell became involved in the 'Justice for Sub Postmasters Alliance' through Jo Hamilton. Kay wrote *"My business partner used to drop into Jo's shop to buy her lunch for court. One day, she found Jo in tears because of ever-increasing unexplained shortfalls in her business accounts. As a forensic accountant, I wanted to try to find out how the loss had occurred. So, I volunteered to help using my accounting and expert skills and requested documents — only to discover that none were given to Jo, who was left without any documents for her defence."*

Group meetings between sub-postmasters were arranged over the years by Alan Bates and Kay Linnell, a good start for the legal team.

.....the unbelievable saga unfolds in 'Mr Bates v The Post Office' and by the continuing news reports....  
I look forward to hearing Kay tell of her experience in this truly incredible affair.

(See [https://www.thelawyer.com/how-justice-done-in-post-office-scandal/?trk=feed\\_main-feed-card\\_feed-article-content](https://www.thelawyer.com/how-justice-done-in-post-office-scandal/?trk=feed_main-feed-card_feed-article-content) if you'd like to read how a legal team took on the might of the Post Office to put right one of the biggest miscarriages of justice the UK has ever seen.)

**Sue Underwood**

## Our 98<sup>th</sup> Charter Lunch



A delightful afternoon of good food and good company!

Skilfully managed by Toastmistress Alison, President Sue welcomed members, friends and guests to SI Manchester's 98th Charter Lunch.

President Sue's 'Toast to the City and Ports of Manchester' referred to the Manchester Bee that started life as seven bees on the coat of arms, to represent Manchester's trade across the seven seas...& is now 'on the buses'!

The High Sheriff of Greater Manchester, Mrs Mary-Liz Walker replied on behalf of the 'City & Ports' recalling all the voluntary work carried out by Soroptimists of Manchester. Mary-Liz wore her Court dress including the traditional Ostrich feather in her hat.



Barbara Blaber, Trustee of Act4Africa, one of the many projects supported by SI Manchester, proposed the 'Toast to Soroptimist International' including looking forward to working with SI Kampala just recently chartered. Pamela Wright, President of Soroptimist International of South Lancashire, gave the response reminding us all to 'Rise Up & Roar!'

The Guest Speaker was Karen

Humphreys, former Head of the Junior Royal Northern College of Music. Karen gave us all a very informative insight into the life of the 'Head of the Junior School' and shared some of her experiences of her years in office.

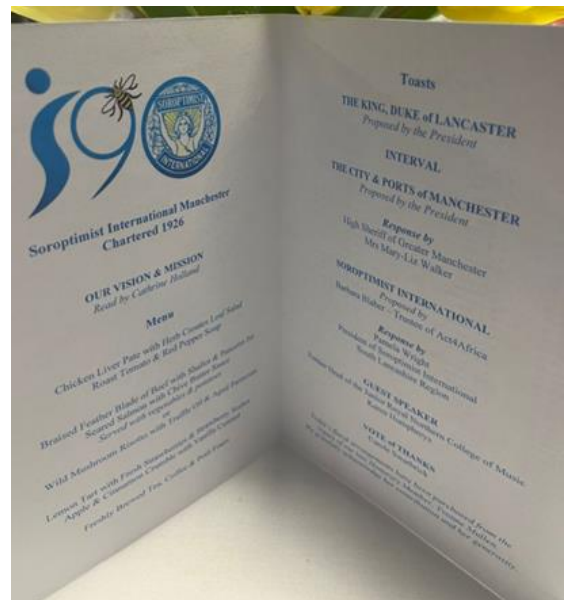


The 'Vote of thanks' was given by our President Elect Carole Swarbrick, including a toast to our guests. We were pleased to be joined by Soroptimists from 8 Clubs of South Lancashire: President Angela of Wigan, President Sue & members of Stockport & District... Also members of Ashton-under-Lyne, Bolton, Leigh & District, Liverpool, Southport and St Helens.

President Sue couldn't resist attempting to gather all of the Soroptimists present for the International Women's Day 'Inspire Inclusion' pose!



President Sue's guest Sharon accepted the challenge to capture each table!



.....& a few of my favourite candid shots!



*Collecting the last cheque!*



*Well that's it over for another year!*



*Your turn next Carole!*

## Kathleen's Surprise Party!

When Val Moss saw that Kathleen had made the effort to travel all the way to Statham Lodge (Lym, Warrington) for the South Lancashire Region Past Presidents Lunch last October that she was prompted to think how nice it would be if some of us travelled to Anglesey to see her on her 97<sup>th</sup> birthday.....

Our heartfelt thanks go to Hilary, Kathleen's daughter, both for conspiring with us for the surprise and for the marvellous lunch she prepared for us. The cake was the final treat and it was delicious!



It was Kathleen's party so of course we played a game! Hilary produced a variation of 'Name that Tune!' but we were each playing a note of the tune on our note block when told!.....we would have been more successful if we could have stopped blaming each other for missing our turn! A little less laughter may have helped too!



Somehow we missed photos of Fiona & Paul and also Pat who called in for cake!

A real 'Memory Day'!

**Sue Underwood**

## Windmill Grandmother – Eliazar writes from New Hope, Orissa, India

Dear Kathleen,  
The windmill is still our main source of water. Every quarter all senior boys in campus 'check-it' - One (in pic second from right in pic of group) goes up with safety rope and adds grease. They check all the inlet and outlet valves on the borewell too. (Big job - takes a whole day) They think of you and wished to send you this Birthday greeting Card. Windmill Grandmother

**Eliazar**





## New Hope, Orissa, India – ‘Our’ Roshini Votes For The First Time!

GREETINGS,

INCREDIBLE THAT WE COULD GET ALL SENIOR GIRLS 'HOME' TO VOTE - INCLUDING OUR NURSES - ROSHINI - FIRST TIME TO VOTE LIKE ALL -

ALL VOTED - Incredible - Jeevan Jyothi, Bangaramma, Jyothi, Ganga, Chinnari, Sonali, Nandini, **Roshini**, Mercy, Nagamani, Babi, Sirisha - This is a reality of how through sponsorship 'little girls' grew up and our now 18+ and have voted. This is the reality of 'working for change' - and it is deeply appreciated how sponsors have stayed to see this 'fruit' of the story of New Hope. Ruth and I are just - 'happy' in the deepest of senses.

Roshini sat for a quarterly practical test and passed with 82 marks. Some girls just are meant to be nurses!. Highest pass in her year.....Could never have thought that when she left.



Please share with Soroptimist - as this is really seriously ‘working for change’ that will go through a generation of women.

Back when Ruth was 18 = she laughs - not even discussed WOMEN voting and the idea of 'girl' voting would have been laughed at too.

Kindest regards  
Eliazar & Ruth



P.S. I will send you a photograph of Leprosy Colony feeding and distribution of Love Bundles - all with ribbon and ALL with a card send from your side. Incredible a card could go so far and to such a - difference of people!!!

Hard to believe. It seems 'non-sense' to many to give a card to such people!!!

But for people who live in such isolated situations - this communication has a 'depth' beyond words really.

**Eliazar's words via Maureen Heywood**

*(Photo of Love Bundles from Facebook)*



# GM4WOMEN2028

## KEY POINTS FROM THE PANKHURST-FAWCETT SCORECARD and data reveal Feb 2024

We started the Pankhurst-Fawcett GM scorecard and accompanying briefs in 2018, the centenary of when some women were first able to vote. This is the sixth set of data, only four more to our end-point. The summary so far is:

1. **It continues to be very difficult to find data at GM level** and even harder to find data showing **differences within GM. It is also difficult to get intersectional data.** For example, in terms of judicial appointments you can search by gender or by BAME, but you can't overlay the two.
2. **In one case, regionally disaggregated data is not available without charge at the time of publication.** (women in engineering and technology at undergraduate level)
3. **On the more positive side, in one case, the data has caught up by a year** and we have revised all the data accordingly (Construction & Built Environ. Apprentices)
4. **The data is singularly difficult to come by for some thematic areas**, this is the case particularly around safety for women. The research providing information on sexual violence survivors able to access support has not been repeated and yet it is an essential piece of information.
5. Four of the ten indicators **show no change and the rest only show one or two percentages changes from year to year** and not always in the right direction, e.g. the gender pay increasing.
6. None of the five thematic areas show both indicators going in the right direction.  
Overall, **the gender gaps remain; over the five years there is hardly any sustained positive change.** At this rate by 2028, the centenary of equal franchise, we will have very little progress to celebrate.



**Data, deeds and determination are critical if we are to make significant inroads into entrenched and persisting gender inequality.**

**GM4WOMEN**  
**2028**

[www.gm4women2028.org](http://www.gm4women2028.org)

@GM4Women2028

**GREAT MANCHESTER FOR WOMEN  
PANKHURST-FAWCETT SCORECARD**



**EMPLOYMENT**



1. EMPLOYMENT RATE GAP<sup>1</sup>

**SAFETY**



3. NO SUPPORT SEX VIOLENCE

**PARTICIPATION**



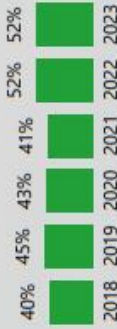
5. VOTING WOMEN IN THE GMCA<sup>5</sup>

**EDUCATION**



7. WOMEN IN ENG. & TECH UNDERGRAD<sup>7</sup>

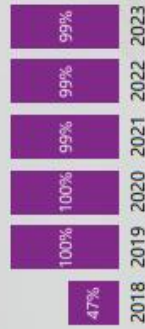
**CULTURE & ACTIVE LIVES**



9. SEN. POSITION NAT. ARTS COUNCIL<sup>9</sup>



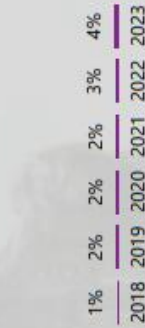
2. GENDER PAY GAP<sup>2</sup>



4. NO SUPPORT DUE TO IMMIG. STATUS<sup>4</sup>



6. JUDICIAL APPOINTMENT<sup>6</sup>



8. CONSTRUC. & BUILT ENV. APPRENTICES<sup>8</sup>



10. NOT PHYSICALLY ACTIVE 30+ A WEEK<sup>10</sup>

1. Source: Annual Population Survey.  
 2. Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings.  
 3. Source: Voices of Survivors Greater Manchester, 2018. No new data.  
 4. Source: Safety4Sisters.  
 5. Source: Data compiled by reference to the websites of the councils.  
 6. Source: Primary appointment of Judges and Non-Legal Members in Courts and Tribunals, Judicial Diversity Statistics Ministry of Justice, table 3.2.  
 7. Source: Higher Education Statistics Authority returns. Regionally disaggregated data not available without charge at the time of publication.  
 8. Source: Department of Education, Apprenticeships and Traineeships Data, note data now more up to date by one year, so we have adjusted previous year's scores.  
 9. Source: Arts Council Annual Survey.  
 10. Source: Sport England Adult Active Lives.

## Manchester's 'Walk For Women' 2024

The International Women's Day walk in Manchester. Our members were delighted to be part of this great event, walking with so many other women striving for equal rights and promoting the theme [#InspireInclusion](#).



Rose Marginson

Meet Our Mancunian.....



Meet the Mancunian Podcast

8 March · 🌐

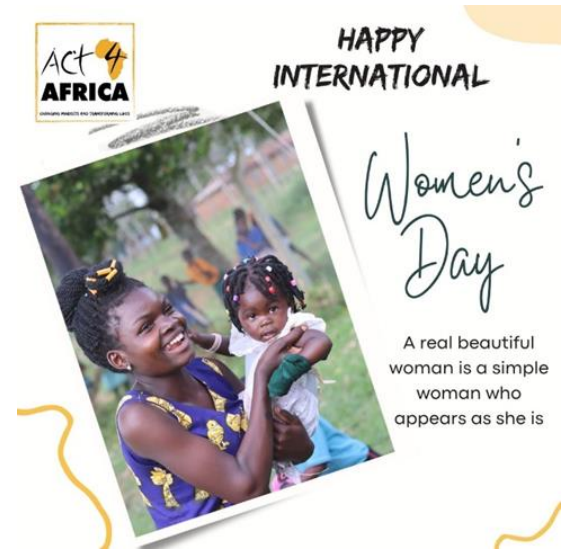
🎧 Happy International Women's Day!  
 ☀️ Celebrate by tuning in to this powerful audiogram featuring Fiona Spencer, Vice President of Soroptimist International Manchester Club. "I think that the people who surround you and the work that you can do with them is the most important lesson... by working with people and helping encourage them to want to make a difference too."

Check out Season 7, Episode 8 of #MeettheMancunian podcast for inspiring stories of women empowering communities. #IWD2024 #Manchester #Women #Girls #SocialImpact #Nonprofit #Community

🎧🌟 Listen now: [www.meetthemancunian.co.uk](http://www.meetthemancunian.co.uk)  
 Soroptimist International Manchester



*We keep referring back to President Elect Fiona's podcast.....have you listened to it?*



Soroptimist International Manchester

12 May at 08:00 · 🌐

- ✅ Do you want to be part of an International Women's Organisation?
- ✅ Do you want to make a difference to the lives of women and children everywhere?
- ✅ Do you want to work with like-minded women?
- ✅ Yes? 🙋

Then you're in the right place! We are looking for new members. 🙋

Join your local club today and you will belong to an organisation of women working to improve the lives of women and girls locally, nationally and internationally.

Find out more from our website

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

or pop along to a meeting on the first Tuesday of each month, in Sale. Contact our membership officer, Sophie, using the Contact Us button at the top of this Facebook page or via [sigbi.manchester@gmail.com](mailto:sigbi.manchester@gmail.com) for more details.

Listen to our President Elect, Fiona, talk all about the work of SI Manchester and the projects that we support, on the 'Meet the Mancunian' podcast 🎧🌟

## Pancake Party

In April Fiona and her Soroptimister Paul organised and hosted the eagerly awaited and always enjoyed Pancake Party. Members of S I Manchester, family and friends were treated to a range of delicious pancake fillings such as Mexican chicken, spinach and ricotta, cherry and ice cream, apple and cinnamon and lemon.



An army of helpers assisted Fiona throughout the event with Rosemary and Gus displaying their considerable hospitality talents in the food and beverage department and Val showing an entrepreneurial side as a super sales person in raffle tickets.



Games and quizzes were produced followed by lots of discussion and head scratching. Who knew that the electric elevator came before the escalator and I'm still not sure what came first the jammy dodger or the Jaffa cake.

The amount raised was an impressive £500 thanks to the generosity and kindness of all who enjoyed a very special evening.

Many thanks Fiona for your hard work, for opening up your beautiful home and to everyone who helped make this such a success.

**President Carole**

*So, thank yous go to Rosemary for her chicken filling and amazing help setting up & serving; to Carole for the cheese platter & help setting up; to Gus for manning the bar; to Val & Hilary for helping set up too and Val for the raffle; to everyone who gave raffle prizes; to Lara & Lois for helping hand out the games/quiz; to David and Rose for washing up and others who were drying madly! Thank you to all who came as it made it so lovely! Phew, a real team effort!*

**Fiona Spencer**

## 'Hug-in-a-Mug' for The River

A select few, Alison took the photo, soon polished off the Mug packing, just 58 this time because The River is short of storage space..... I raided Sainsburys for sturdy 'Pink Lady' apple boxes that will stack easily.

The River staff and volunteers were delighted & fascinated with the 'Hug-in-a-Mug' s!

**Sue Underwood**



*From 'The River Manchester' Facebook page:  
Sunshine, visitors, mugs and sweets for our clientele,  
what more can we ask for!  
Thank you **Soroptimist International Manchester***



**Soroptimist International Manchester**

25 May at 07:30 · 🌐

🌟 Shining a light on our projects 🌟

Over the next few weeks we will be highlighting some of the great projects that we support as a club.

Week 9 - The River Manchester - Empowering survivors of domestic abuse

The River brings hope and support to those who are at their most vulnerable. They provide relief and support for people who have suffered, or are in danger of suffering, from social and emotional difficulties, whether fleeing domestic violence, undergoing trauma and abuse, involved in prostitution, alcohol and drug abuse, being in debt, self harm or in fear of their lives.

Our support includes donating items, attending events, and fundraising.



[THERIVERMANCHESTER.ORG.UK](http://THERIVERMANCHESTER.ORG.UK)

**The River Manchester**

The River brings hope and support to those facing or fleeing Domestic Violence across Manchester and empowers them to create a...

Looking forward to their 'Father's Day Afternoon Tea' on Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup>!

## Lendwithcare

Soroptimist International of Manchester has completed a year of support for entrepreneurs who are registered with Care International and receive funding to help them develop their businesses.

We have supported businesses in a wide range of countries from Ecuador to Togo, the Philippines, Zambia, Vietnam, Malawi, Thailand and Cambodia. Within these countries have been 16 individuals and 7 groups. In each group there are 5 people and the advantage of being in a group is that they all support each other and if one member fails the rest will rescue them. Whilst the businesses are supported the other benefits are that the families and children benefit from better education, better medical issues and improved living conditions.

The initial £240 allocated by the club for Lendwithcare has been loaned to entrepreneurs. As the entrepreneurs have repaid their loans the club has re-invested the money so a total of £450 has been allocated.

The variety of businesses invested in include farming, cafes and restaurants, retail, sewing, education and training, arts and handicrafts and beauty.

Some farmers request loans to buy more stock for breeding like pigs, cows and bulls, buffalo, goats, poultry. Other farmers request seeds, pesticides and fertilisers for growing crops like ground nuts, rice, maize or even Irish potatoes. Owners of cafes and restaurants request modern and efficient industrial equipment and utensils as well as raw materials for cooking and processing food ingredients for sale. The sewing businesses request professional sewing and cutting machines. Retail businesses request a wide variety of wholesale goods to sell on. Arts and handicrafts businesses request goods for selling on and also materials for making their own handicrafts.

All the entrepreneurs have plans for expanding their businesses and, where appropriate, recruiting more staff.

**Val Jenkins**

### Two Examples of Loans Repaid:

# lendwithcare

Dear Val,

Great news – [Tinyadire 1 Group](#) have just made their final repayment and successfully repaid their entire loan! You will receive this last payment into your Lendwithcare account **in a few days' time**.

Thank you so much for being a part of helping the Tinyadire 1 Group and investing in their business.

We cannot begin to tell you how much your support is appreciated by Tinyadire 1 Group and their families, and of course by all the team here at [lendwithcare.org](http://lendwithcare.org).

Thanks for your continuing support and please do consider re-investing your repayment in another worthwhile venture. [Click here](#) to see the latest entrepreneurs seeking your help.

With kind regards,

The team at Lendwithcare



#### About the Tinyadire 1 Group:

The group is in the remote village of Jolijo in Malawi. It comprises 5 female members and supports 22 children.

They cultivate Irish potatoes and by employing effective irrigation techniques are able to grow Irish potatoes all year round.

Ellena is a member of the group and she is 35 with 5 children. She irrigates her fields by digging channels to direct water from a natural water source. She hopes to acquire more farmland in future so she can increase her farming activities.



## The Tidziwane 22 group, Lilongwe, Malawi



The Tidziwane 22 group has five members and they all live in the same remote village of Chinkhuti in Nkhotakota district. These women have a joint total of seventeen children between them that they support. Members of the Tidziwane 22 group are engaged in farming and they grow various crops, but this loan that they are requesting will go towards growing rice.

Bertha is 33 years old and she is one of the member of the Tidziwane 22 group. She is married and she has six children. Her husband is a farmer. Bertha grows rice with the support of her husband. She started farming rice two years ago to cover the basic needs for her family.

Bertha will use her share of the loan to buy seeds and fertilizer while the other members will buy pesticides, seeds and fertilizer. In the coming two years, Bertha wants to buy a farmland and grow her business capital from MK150,000 to MK500,000. (£117.17 to £390.40).

## Also, A Progress Report:

### Mrs. Sokhom's rice farming has performed well on her new hectare of rice paddy (Cambodia)



For several months, Mrs. Sokhom has been using a loan from Lendwithcare through farming a new hectare of rice paddy. Her wet season rice has already been harvested, fetching a price of \$250 per ton, resulting in a satisfactory return on her rice farming investment. Mrs. Sokhom has expanded her agricultural pursuits by leasing an additional five hectares of rice paddy for this wet season, incurring a cost of \$125 per hectare annually.

Encouraged by the favourable market conditions, Mrs. Sokhom is contemplating the acquisition of another plot of rice paddy to further expand her wet season rice production. The robust prices in the current rice market have motivated her to invest in additional farming land, demonstrating her

commitment to make the most of the lucrative opportunities within the rice industry.

## Early Essentials

SI Manchester supports Early Essentials who provide starter packs for some of the most vulnerable pregnant women in our communities who have been identified by their health and social care professional as being in great need.



Carole and Fiona presented Early Essentials with beautiful baby clothes and quilts made by our partners **Sara and Jane from Ashton Village Saver, Anne & others from the Heald Green Village Stitchers and Nancy from Project Linus\***

**Project Linus Quilts:** many quilting groups contribute to Project Linus Quilts. The local coordinator can give them to different charities and hospitals. So Nancy, our Heald Green local coordinator, chooses now to give the small ones to Early Essentials. In March we had a day as a group sewing them, it was our second set and we are collecting more.



These talented knitters and stitchers are amazing and the items they make are very much appreciated by Early Essentials and the women they help.

**Carole Swarbrick & Fiona Spencer**



## The 'Ripple Effect' of talking about Soroptimism.....

One Soroptimist (Fiona) goes to a stitching group

- Talks about Soroptimism – SI Manchester's project 'Early Essentials'
- Stitchers introduce 'Early Essentials' as a possible 'Linus Project' beneficiary.....see above!
- .....& Stitchers, plus family & friends, also begin knitting for 'Early Essentials'!

Another Soroptimist (Liz) goes to the Ashton Village Saver shop

- Talks about Soroptimism – SI Manchester's projects including 'New Hope, Orissa' & 'Early Essentials'
- Shop owners Mum & her sister get busy knitting.....



# Thank You to all our silent supporters

**The Lewy Body Society**  
Shining a light on Lewy body dementia

**Thursday  
17 October  
2024  
Manchester**

## A scarf for Lewy

Our giant scarf is coming to  
**Central Hall, Manchester M1 1JQ**  
on **Thursday 17 October 2024**

This year, we're asking for volunteers to get their knitting needles out again. We need as many people as possible to get involved with this unique challenge. Help us make a real splash by knitting gloriously colourful scarves.

Your scarf should be roughly 30cm wide and as long as you like; any yarn and colour. We need sufficient scarves to make a mile long banner for maximum impact. The scarves will eventually be donated to charity.

### Can YOU Knit a Scarf?

Knitters across the South Lancashire Region are supporting this project.

A speaker from the Lewy Body Society (a Wigan Soroptimist) will explain more about the Society at the South Lancashire Region Programme Action Meeting on Saturday June 8<sup>th</sup>

#AScarfForLewy

## The Rowley Project

Angela from the Rowley Project spoke at our April meeting. The charity was founded in 2000 after Angela and her husband, Stephen, visited western Kenya. They found that the greatest need was for clean drinking water so returned the following year to establish a water filter project.



Since then they have helped to establish a primary school, a secondary school and a dispensary.

We were pleased to be able to make a contribution to their fantastic work.

**Pat Usher**

## 'SOROPTIMIST' Wine

This is what I discovered whilst Decluttering our cellar.....  
This is a Bottle of Soroptimist Wine!

It was given to me by a Soroptimist friend, Sylvia Wilson who then lived in Yorkshire. I never remembered that I kept this bottle in the cellar. Whilst decluttering, I came across this lovely bottle with a very friendly dedication.



I wish to share with SI Manchester friends that Sylvia Wilson will only live a few miles away from me, in Cumbria and we will re-establish our friendship and hopefully open this special bottle of wine. Sylvia has already written to me and we plan to meet when I move. She does not know that I will have this special wine from several years ago.

Elaine helped me celebrate this special find of precious wine but it will be opened in Cumbria.

Here is to SI Friendships and to good wines.

**Malgorzata Kmita**

## Mum & The Boys

At the beginning of March, I heard a 'knock' on the conservatory door..... Mum & two Boys had arrived!  
She must have gone to Africa from around October 2023.

The 'Boys' have been very busy making 'love' to her so we will wait and see! She looks shattered!

Last year, all her babies died and then she had a second lot. Unfortunately only one duck lived. She looked after her baby so well but, the minute she could fly, the mother went. The baby had another week by itself and then left.



On arrival, they would like to feed four times a day, so I have to be very hard to them and only give them breakfast and evening meals. Mum eats much more than the boys, so perhaps she'll be pregnant soon, or is already pregnant. I'll let you know if there are any eggs, perhaps next to our front door.....

Update on 1<sup>st</sup> May – Yes she now got a few eggs! In the same place as last year. She now speaks to us, especially Barry. For her breakfast, I put her food just next to her, where she's sitting on her eggs. I think that they will hatch soon....but so many are killed.

Further news on 18<sup>th</sup> May - This morning, Dad arrived, quacked and quacked (he had been away for a few weeks).

Mum had her breakfast and went back to sit on her 13 eggs. Suddenly, looked outside....Mum and Dad together...with 7 babies!!

They immediately walked together down to the pond.

Unfortunately, there will be so few within a day or two!

**Shena Cuttle**



You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending.

C. S. Lewis

# 'Our' Trees in Didsbury Park

Another of Sophie's Facebook Posts:



**Soroptimist International Manchester** is at Didsbury Park.

12 April · Manchester · 🌐

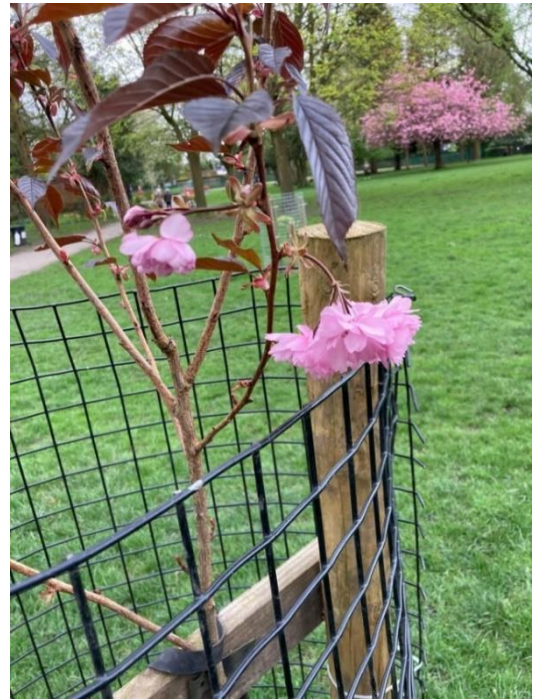
At SI Manchester, we focus on a number of Planet projects as well as the People projects that we support.

Over the last couple of years, with the help of [Friends of Didsbury Park](#), we have planted trees. 🌳 Here is one of them in flower today 🌸



If you feel passionate about the environment and would like to get involved with any of the projects that we support, then please get in touch with us for a chat.

Cherry Tree planted in December 2023



& our Wedding Cake Tree planted in December 2022

Both of our trees are in sight of the **Pavilion Café**, Highly recommended for coffee & cake!



## Our Congratulations to Friends of Didsbury Park!

November 13<sup>th</sup> 2023

### KING'S HONOURS FOR FRIENDS OF DIDSBURY PARK

At 9am this morning, on the King's birthday, 'The Palace' announced that the Friends of Didsbury Park have been awarded 'The King's Award for Voluntary Service'. This prestigious award is the highest award a local volunteer group can receive in the UK and is equivalent to an MBE. I think we should all be very proud of the volunteers who work in our community and the efforts that people make to improve our environment.

## SI Manchester's 'Climate Fresk' Workshop

SI Manchester were delighted to welcome members from SI Bolton, SI Liverpool and SI Southport to our Climate Fresk on 1st June at Stretford Public Hall.

This was an interactive and cooperative workshop where we explored climate change issues together.



The content of the workshop is drawn from the reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate change (IPCC), made much more accessible by the card based 'game' format.

This made it easier to see the interesting and often complex interactions between human activity and climate change.

We were encouraged to reflect on actions to solve the problems together and for us to spread the word.



These workshops are delivered world-wide often by volunteer facilitators. Our session was ably delivered by Ethar Alali and Kennedy Mumba from Really Recycle.

**Elaine Loader**



I would also say that I found it enlightening, thought provoking and challenging at the same time.

Very fun event!!

**Sophie Kennedy**

### **My message to Mary SI Kampala after the March Club meeting:**

*Hi Mary, may I introduce myself... Sue Underwood, member of SI Manchester (UK) for over 30 years, currently President. We have been following your journey to Chartering SI Kampala with interest & admiration, SI Manchester was Chartered in 1926!*

*We were wondering if our Clubs could form a Friendship Link?*

*One of the oldest & one of the youngest Clubs.....*

*We have supported Act4Africa for many years & SALVE recently, both operating close to Kampala....*

*My email address is [sueuhome@sky.com](mailto:sueuhome@sky.com) if your club would like to look at becoming our Friendship link.*

*Looking forward to hearing from you*

*In friendship*

*Sue Underwood*

### **Mary Replied on March 10th:**

Dear President Sue,

Greetings from SI Kampala! We are truly delighted to have received your heartfelt message, and your encouraging words about our journey into SI Kampala fill us with great joy. Your extensive three decades of experience as a Soroptimist International member bring immeasurable value to our collective efforts.

The proposal for a Friendship Link between SI Manchester and SI Kampala holds profound significance for us. It transcends symbolism, representing the convergence of one of the oldest and one of the newest Clubs in the Soroptimist International network. This envisioned link is not merely a gesture; it carries the potential to foster connections and collaborations that go beyond geographical boundaries and span across generations.

The recent gathering on International Women's Day was a remarkable showcase of enthusiasm among our members. Their eagerness to connect, share experiences, and collaboratively contribute to impactful projects was palpable. The historical ties between Uganda and the UK, strengthened by their Commonwealth connection, amplify the promising possibilities for a deep and mutually enriching relationship.

Your outreach has ignited a genuine sense of anticipation within our club. We eagerly look forward to exploring the myriad possibilities that this Friendship Link holds. We extend our heartfelt gratitude for extending your hand in friendship, and we approach this collaboration with optimism, envisioning a connection that not only endures but also leaves a lasting positive impact.

As we embark on this journey of friendship, we are keenly aware of the transformative potential it carries. Beyond the formalities of collaboration, we see an opportunity to exchange ideas, share best practices, and collectively contribute to the broader goals of Soroptimist International.

In the spirit of fostering friendship and collaboration, we express our sincere appreciation for your support and guidance. Your leadership is a source of inspiration for us, and we believe that through this Friendship Link, we can create a meaningful bond that not only benefits our respective clubs but also contributes to the overarching vision of Soroptimist International.

With warm regards and anticipation,

Mary Jackie Naluwoza

President, SI Kampala Club

### **I replied on March 12<sup>th</sup>:**

Dear President Mary

Wonderful to hear from you and delighted that share our desire for a friendship link!

All so exciting that it's difficult to know where to begin...



I will pass on your greetings at our next Club meeting on April 2<sup>nd</sup> together with some of your Facebook posts, to begin to introduce you all to our members.

In the meantime, you may like to review some back copies of our Club Newsletter which can be found on <https://sigbi.org/manchester/quarterly-club-newsletter/>

If you would like to introduce your Club in our next Newsletter then the deadline for articles is 14<sup>th</sup> April..... For now, I must get ready to go to Cornwall for a week's holiday!

In friendship  
Sue

**Mary Replied on March 16<sup>th</sup>:**

Dear President Sue,

I trust you and your loved ones, as well as our fellow sisters in SI Manchester, are in good health.



Thank you for sharing the club letters. After reviewing them from 2011 to the present, I must say, you've been doing an outstanding job.

It's heartening to witness dedicated sisters like Rose Marginson, Molly Robinson, Susan Hollick, and Rosemary Steven leading your esteemed club. Your support for organizations such as S.A.L.V.E in Jinja, Act for Africa, and New Hope in India is commendable. Your contributions to local communities are also noteworthy.

I was pleased to learn that Chris Knight from Australia, a friend of mine, visited your club and is assisting us with our new club.

We hold immense respect for longstanding members like Madam Ann Thomas, who has been with the club for over 50 years.

We aspire for Soroptimist International's endeavours to continue prospering.



Members of SI Kampala admire your work, and our objective aligns with yours in establishing a center to aid girls and women with skills, counselling, and support.



Our members proposed that SI Manchester's assistance in establishing this center would greatly benefit our community. Sue, your guidance on this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you very much.

Warm regards,

Mary Jackie

President SI Kampala

Sophie has been Showcasing Our Projects on Facebook – Our Ugandan Projects for example:



Shining a light on our projects 🌟

Over the next few weeks we will be highlighting some of the great projects that we support as a club.

Week 6 Act4Africa 🌍

H.E.A.L

Supporting women and girls in Uganda, Africa to thrive independently through a transformative and holistic approach to Health, Education, Agriculture and Livelihoods.

Including "Kathy's Kindergarten",

"Adolescent Mothers" programme (225 mothers over 2 years)

"Grains for Growth"

& Water source for communities.

Our support includes funding two huge tents for the training and support sessions of the Adolescent Mothers & care of their babies, allowing the mothers to learn freely.

Providing books and toys for the kindergarten.

<https://www.act4africa.org/>



Soroptimist International Manchester

18 May at 07:30 · 🌐

Shining a light on our projects 🌟

Over the next few weeks we will be highlighting some of the great projects that we support as a club.

Week 8 - S.A.L.V.E. International

At one of our club meetings we heard a fantastic speaker from this charity. It was very moving to hear of the children that they help.

S.A.L.V.E. International is an NGO based in Jinja Cit in Eastern Uganda.

S.A.L.V.E. works in a variety of ways to reduce the number of children having to live on the streets of Uganda, which all have education at the heart of them.

Their objective is to provide support to the children working and living on the streets of Jinja to help to get them off the streets, into homes and education, to help prevent and overcome addictions and to help find alternative methods of income generation.

Our support includes raising awareness, attending events in the UK, and fundraising.

<https://www.salveinternational.org/>



## Annual General Meeting & Change of Insignia 18<sup>th</sup> April – Our 99<sup>th</sup> Year Has Begun!



We surprised Ann Thomas with an Honorary Lifetime Membership in recognition of her (almost) 50 years of service....

.....Acknowledged Pat Usher's 40 years, Shena Cuttle's 30 years & Rosemary Steven's 25 years (& more!)



*(President Sue accepted Shena's certificate)*

President Sue handed over the chain to President Carole

### President Carole

As someone who has been involved in many aspects of education as a teacher, former Executive Member for Children's Services in a metropolitan borough and school and college governor I believe that most of the world's problems could be alleviated through education.

Some years ago I was inspired to visit Robben Island as a result of reading this quotation from Nelson Mandela **'education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.'** Nelson Mandela was known for his ability to find common ground with very different communities. In later life he always looked for the best in people, even defending political opponents to his allies.

We live in a world which seems to be increasingly fragmented and where many women and girls experience poverty, deprivation and trauma as a result of many societal norms. I know that by working together Soroptimist International Manchester can make a difference to the lives of the vulnerable we aim to support.

I look forward to the year ahead especially as we prepare for our Centenary year in 2025.

**President Carole**



## Dates for Your Diary

Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> June	7pm	Executive Meeting - Zoom
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> June	7pm	SIM Social – KargoMkt, Central Quay, Salford Quays
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	10 to 3:30pm	GM4Women28 – Dialogue, Deeds, Determination – Salford
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	6:30 for 7pm	Club Meeting
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	7pm	Executive Meeting
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> July	7pm	Zoom – Programme Action Meeting
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> August	6:30 for 7pm	Club Meeting
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> August	7pm	Executive Meeting
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	7pm	Club Meeting – ‘Once Upon A Smile’ Charlotte Brown
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> September	From 10am	South Lancs Region PAC & Council Meeting
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> September	7pm	Executive Meeting
& 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> November		SIGBI Federation Conference Edinburgh

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

**Copy** for the Summer edition of the Newsletter by **Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July**, please.

Looking forward to articles from each of you!

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

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

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

*Sue Underwood* [sueuhome@sky.com](mailto:sueuhome@sky.com)

Last Words ..... from Women who could/should have been Soroptimists!

