



Autumn Winter 2024 Issue 87



President: **Carole Swarbrick**



Dear Club Members,
Welcome to your Autumn/Winter Newsletter.
Our social media posts are necessarily brief so please feel free to expand them into an article for your Newsletter which is read by a far wider audience. Share your stories, thoughts and views.
Now I must tackle the neglected housework & begin Christmas preparations.....Albert is exhausted from just putting on his Christmas scarf!
Thank you for your contributions, I hope you enjoy your Christmas read.

Sue Underwood



President's Message – President Carole Swarbrick

On reading the newsletter you will realise that the last few months have seen many ongoing Programme Action projects completed for another year, some events attended resulting in fantastic fund raising totals and members getting hands on with a variety of projects and charities. In fact lots of examples of Soroptimism at its very best and why we are proud to be part of S I Manchester.

However I want to celebrate you, the amazing women who make up the club and say congratulations and thank you.

Congratulations on your commitment to the objects of Soroptimist International and a personal thankyou for the many ways you have supported me this year.



As you know my house move wasn't straightforward and I spent 17 weeks sofa surfing before getting the keys to my house at the end of November. This state of limbo followed by frenzied activity sorting out my new home has meant that unfortunately I have missed some events especially during the 16 days of activism.

However as true Soroptimists you have carried on regardless and I will be forever grateful for your understanding and kindness.

I hope you have a well earned rest however you choose to spend the holiday season.

President Carole

16 Days of Activism: 25th November to 10th December

16 Days of Activism is a global campaign fighting against gender-based violence.

(<https://www.unwomen.org/en/get-involved/16-days-of-activism>)

Spearheaded by UN Secretary-General António Guterres, 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an annual international campaign beginning on 25th November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and concluding on 10th December, Human Rights Day.

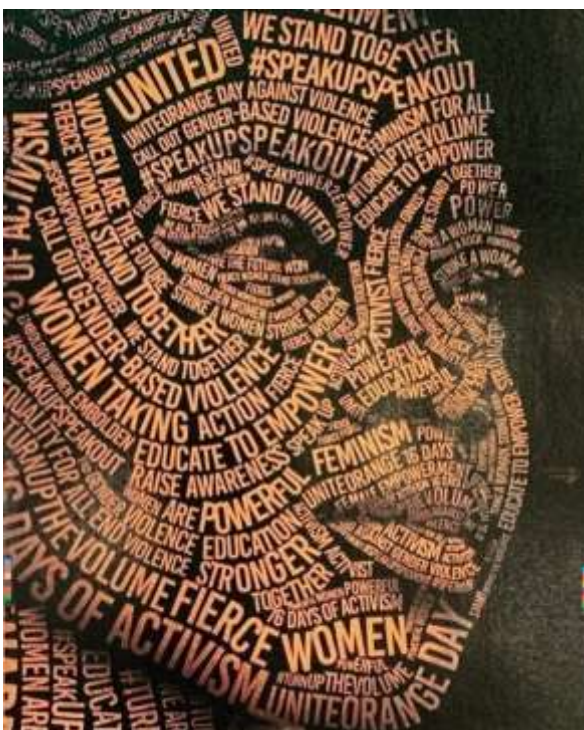
Violence against women and girls (VAWG) remains the most prevalent and pervasive human rights violation in the world. In the UK it is a 'national emergency'. It is happening at all levels, in all areas of our society.

Prevention starts with awareness and ends with action. This year, we're focusing on how prevention can make a difference. [#16Days](#) [#PreventionFirst](#)

Join us for 16 Days of Activism to end Violence Against Women and Girls!
Together, we can create a safer, more equitable world for everyone.

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

December 10th is
World Human Rights Day
& now Soroptimist International Foundation Day



On Day 16
we call for
365 Days
of Action!

Shrub Planting in Didsbury Park

Today starts the 16 days of activism against gender based violence. Climate change is not gender neutral. Women and girls experience the greatest impacts of climate change. At the start of tree week and as a small way of helping climate change we planted a shrub Daphne bholus 'Jacqueline Postill' at Didsbury Park. It's the 3rd year we have donated a tree or shrub. We thank Brian and all the volunteers of Didsbury Park who do a wonderful job and helped in the planting today.

Rose Marginson



Congratulations to Friends of Didsbury Park!

*From their Facebook Post:
It's been a year to remember with the Kings award for volunteering and now a gold award from Britain*

in Bloom - one of only 6 in the North West.

This is all due to the hard work and support from all the brilliant people involved.

Well done everyone and let's keep it going!



**A Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to all our volunteers and supporters.
Friends of Didsbury Park**

'Hug-In-A-Mug' Packing

Our mug packing evening!
100 mugs were packed with tea, coffee, milk, biscuits and hot chocolate sachets. They were wrapped to be given to the women entering any of the Manchester Refuges.

Small things make a difference when a woman has fled domestic violence with nothing. We hope it gives them a little pleasure.

Rose Marginson



Diaries for WomenMATTa

A huge thank you to all our supporters who have helped us to collect 240 diaries (more to follow!) for [WomenMATTa](#).

We have given them what we have so far to allow them to start making up the Christmas packs for each of the vulnerable women who are using their service.

We also donated 6 bags of clothes for their clothes bank.

Sophie Kennedy



16 Days of Activism 2024

Contact Hostel – ‘More Than Just A Place To Stay’

Contact Hostel provides accommodation and practical support for homeless teenage girls from the Manchester area. The young women may have experienced relationship breakdowns, domestic violence, forced marriage, threatened abduction as well as physical and emotional abuse. The fundraiser and income partner Helen is going to talk at a future meeting but there is a very informative website. (<https://www.contacthostel.co.uk/>)

Claire and Carole went along to Asda Hulme to assist in a bucket collection. Our support was very much appreciated and the time passed quickly. People watching is always interesting!
Carole Swarbrick



Thanks to Alison & Rosemary, on behalf of our Club.....

A cosy christmas gift for each young woman at Contact Hostel has now been wrapped.....



Alison & Rosemary

and delivered!

Thank you so much for attending our Comedy Night at Grub last night. We hope that you had a fantastic time and lot's of laughs!

We are so grateful to everyone who attended, donated or supported our event in any way.

Last night with your support, we were able to raise over £1,100 for Contact Hostel - which is absolutely amazing.

Thank you for being part of our mission to support girls in need, right here in Manchester.



Also, Rachelle (Manders) and two friends (Sarah & Jacki) went to this Comedy Night – highly recommended for the future!
(Rachelle won yet more fizz in the Raffle!)

Early Essentials



Early Essentials Manchester

5 December at 12:22 · 🌐

Wonderful Christmas tree festival with knitted garments made for us, inspired by [Soroptimist International Manchester](#)!! Thank you!!



Fabulous work from all the knitters at St Catherine's church and Village Stitchers, Heald Green and their friends and family. Great to be able to spread the word about the amazing work you do

Fiona Spencer



16 Days of Activism

4 days ago in

This international campaign against gender-based violence started in 1991 and is run annually from November 25th (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) to December 10th (International Human Rights Day). Many of our ongoing projects support women and girls who have suffered or at risk. During this year's 16 days we were delighted to be able to help Manchester Women's Aid, Contact Hostel, Early Essentials and WomenMatta. In addition, we planted a shrub in Didsbury Park – a small contribution to help combat climate change. According to the United Nations an estimated 80% of those adversely affected by climate change are women and girls. Sophie, our Vice President and Membership Officer, has put daily posts on Facebook. Orange is used to represent a bright future – one that is free of violence against women and girls.

Big Give – Two Playgrounds – Manchester & Uganda



Soroptimist International Manchester

★ Favourites · 10 October · 🌐

£200 donation made & it will be doubled to £400 🎁



Manchester Women's Aid

10 October · 🌐

Our Big Give campaign to raise funds for one of our play areas in one of our refuges starts today!

By donating towards a play area, you will help make the stay of women and children in our refuges more calming.

Children need to run around and feel comfortable in their surroundings and coming to a refuge far from their friends and their routines can be very difficult.

Having dedicated, outside spaces for women and children to enjoy will help improve women and children's wellbeing. Little nooks and crannies for children to explore. A comfy bench for a mum to have ten minutes before she picks her children up from school.

Soroptimist International Manchester

★ Favourites · 4 December at 07:33 · 🌐

Our 'Smartie 20p's' total of £200 has been donated so that's £400 for [Act4Africa](#)

🙏
[#makingadifference](#) [#makingadifferencetogether](#)

Christmas Challenge
DOUBLE YOUR DONATIONS THIS CHRISTMAS
3rd - 10th Dec 2024
ACT 4 AFRICA
One Donation - Double the Difference!

Today marks the start of the [#BigGiveChristmasChallenge](#) (3rd-10th Dec), and we at Act4Africa are excited to be part of it!

This year, we're raising funds to create a special play area for the amazing children at Kathy's Kindergarten. Every donation made during this period will be doubled—that's right, your impact will be twice as powerful!

Please help us bring joy and

learning opportunities to these young minds. Please donate and double your impact this [#GivingTuesday](#). Together, we can make a difference!

Both Targets Were Achieved!

'Rise Up and Roar' Rosebowl Challenge 2024

Members of S I Manchester had their own 'Oscar' experience recently. At the regional meeting President Pamela gave details of the submissions received from the various clubs for the 'Rise Up and Roar Rosebowl Challenge 2024'.

This you may remember is when clubs are invited to describe how they have 'roared into community action'. I confess when we were told of the amazing projects of other clubs my heart sank but when President Pamela said 'and the winner is'

S I Manchester

.....Pat, Hilary, Val and I were so excited.

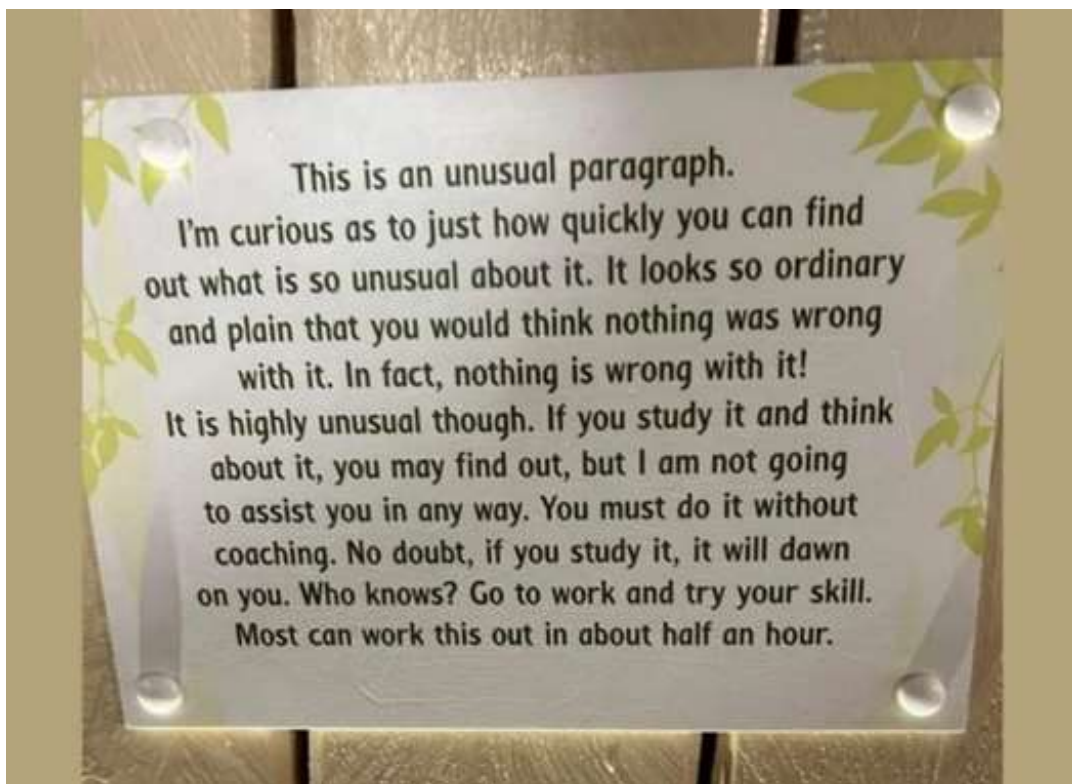
Of course I was very pleased and proud to receive the trophy on behalf of all members but it was Sophie who collated the information. The submission included details on how the club uses social media to explain and promote our projects. President Pamela later told me that what set the Manchester report apart was the detailed evidence of success not just 'this is what we do.'



Congratulations to all members and a special thank you to Sophie. This confirms we are indeed an amazing group of women who are working hard to improve the lives of women and girls locally, nationally and globally.

President Carole

Also, special thanks to Pat for making sure that the Rosebowl is full of chocolate 'Roses' at our meetings!



Answer at the January Club meeting!

Greater Manchester Soroptimists Spread The Word!

The Mayor of Bolton and Soroptimist International Manchester hosted an afternoon tea in order to mark 50 years since the formation of Greater Manchester and the forthcoming centenary of the Manchester Soroptimist club.



All Soroptimist clubs in Greater Manchester were invited to give a presentation to the assembled mayors of the various boroughs in order to highlight the valuable work carried out in their communities.

The Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester and three deputy lieutenants were joined by the Soroptimist International Great Britain and Ireland President Ruth Healey and the Regional President Pamela Wright who both contributed to the afternoon with interesting and uplifting speeches.



Members in Manchester were generous in donating raffle prizes with all proceeds going to Soroptimist charities.

It is hoped that the event will further raise the profile of our global organisation as we look towards the exciting centenary year ahead.



& at the end of the day...

Hi ladies. Many thanks to all who made the afternoon so successful. From the raffle ticket sellers Rose and Sophie and those who donated prizes to those lovely people who had their very important tasks to perform. Fiona did the 3 minute whistle stop tour of Programme Action Manchester, Rosemary who hosted Ruth Healey overnight and Sue who spent 3 days with spreadsheets as well as filling wicker baskets with most of the raffle prizes. Rosemary and Alison put together one which was lovely and won by Ruth Healey.

The total raised was a magnificent £837.30 although of course the afternoon was about so much more than fundraising. Thanks to everyone, you are amazing women (and I've only had one gin) x

President Carole Swarbrick

The Lewy Body Society's 'A Scarf For Lewy'



This was a Region wide project, during the summer we knitted 'A Scarf for Lewy'. The scarves were then sewn together and in October Manchester's Central Hall was draped in over a mile of scarves!

Christopher Biggins was there supporting in person, delighted with his bright orange scarf!

TV presenter (Judge) Rob Rinder, whose father is living with Lewy body dementia, also sent a video message of support before the big event.

'Dancing With Dementia' led us in a Conga, Biggins let me in! Anybody else do the Conga on a Thursday morning? 😊

I even spotted one of the scarves I knitted!

See the website or Facebook page for more photos & the Conga video!

[The Lewy Body Society](#)

[#ascarfforlewy](#)

Sue Underwood



Jacqui Me Biggins Angela
(Angela & Jacqui are members of SI Wigan)

Sponsorship of a Girls' Football Team

Thanks to a legacy we received from our honorary life member Yvonne Mullen we have been able to sponsor a girls' football team – [Ashton on Mersey](#) Chiefs Under 11s.

Yvonne was always keen to support children and we wish them the best of luck for the season.

Pat Usher



Act4Africa's Curry & Quiz Night

Finally we managed to enter a team!
Our team 'Fun, Food & Friendship' was made up of 3 Soroptimists, 3 Soroptimisters & 2 Soropsupporters!

We thoroughly enjoyed our Curry & Quiz.....we were next to the winning table, but only geographically!
We can only get better next year!
Sue Underwood



Act4Africa's Stall at AGGS Christmas Fayre (Altrincham Girls Grammar School)



Fellow trustee Lucy & I enjoyed our evening manning the Act4Africa stall. It wasn't as busy as last year because the Chocolate Tombola Stall had been moved to the main hall & visitors spent their time there first!

We sold the aprons, bags & oven gloves made by the young women during vocational training in Uganda and Christmas Cards made by one of our volunteers in the UK.

We were consoled by some delicious Indian street food! I can't recall what we were laughing at, topics were many & varied!
Sue Underwood

Introducing Act4Africa's 'SHE LEADS' Programme

Act4Africa's SHE LEADS programme offers young women a safe haven to overcome their past pains and rebuild their confidence.



For Martha, a childhood spent working in homes and restaurants to support her family robbed her of a normal life. She has found trust, therapy, and a voice she once thought lost through SHE LEADS. Today, she feels alive, empowered to make choices, and even has the courage to sell her homemade snacks.

Programmes like SHE LEADS are changing lives by allowing young women to reclaim their voices and futures. [#SheLeads](#) [#EmpowerHer](#)



Please see <https://www.act4africa.org/she-leads/> for more information

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

We will be celebrating our Centenary over TWO years

The Inaugural Meeting was held on February 18th 1926

Our Charter was granted on June 16th 1926

So, Fiona Spencer will be President for our 100th year and will host our 100th Charter Dinner

SAVE THE DATE Saturday March 28th 2026

& Sophie Kennedy will be President when we are 100 and will host the celebration of the granting of our Charter in June 2026

Our planning for the 100th year of SI Manchester is now well under way. Meeting before the club meeting for an hour seems to be successful as a way to include any members who would like to be present. All are welcome and no doubt there will be roles for all of us in the events and projects we are planning.

Our threefold aims are

- to promote Soroptimism,
- to fundraise towards our £10,000 total by our 100th birthday
- and to celebrate in style our commitment to support women in children in Manchester and further afield.

Save the date for our **100th Charter Dinner in 2026 on Saturday 28th March** as we have secured both a booking at the Novotel, Worsley and **Helen Pankhurst** as our special guest. I will be undertaking “an interview with Helen Pankhurst” on the night and we will be planning entertainment and considering how to make it a special occasion for us, members around the region and hopefully family or friends to join us.

In order to make it easy to see where we are up to in the planning, we will circulate a proposal document for each event. This will allow everyone to add in their thoughts and ideas or to offer their skills or enthusiasm to help either with aspects, or to volunteer as the liaison lead for the project. This should help us keep on track, consider budgets, and remain organised in a timely way. We need everyone to put their thinking caps on as we consider how to interest sponsors and keep up our fundraising so something for everyone to contribute to.

Exploring our archives will give us a chance to reflect on how Soroptimists have been active in the city over the last century and hopefully allow us to build some displays for our events and maybe for other venues to promote Soroptimism and attract new members.

Exciting events for 2025 including an afternoon tea with an accomplished speaker on historical jewelry; an African night of food and dancing and music (booked for 14th June); a circle dancing evening with Greek cuisine will hopefully allow us to meet our objectives above and to enjoy working and celebrating together.

All welcome to come along to centenary planning meetings at the earlier start of 6pm before club meetings or some ad hoc zooms. Do let me know what is important to you about our centenary plans.

President Elect Fiona

Centenary Fact

The Club started its own magazine in 1927 and has continued to produce a Newsletter throughout the years. The national magazine (‘Soroptimist News’, now online only) commenced publication in 1930, the first Editor and Business Managers were both Manchester Members.

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

Centenary Suppers Success!



Members and Soroptimists got together again on Friday 13th September to enjoy a lovely Centenary Supper, main course of pasta bolognaise cooked by Kev and panna cotta with shortbread and strawberries by me.

Always good to mix fun and friendship with the important work that we do.

Unfortunately we only remembered to take a photo just before everybody

headed off. No pics of the fabulous food....next time!

The supper raised £60 towards subsidising the Centenary Dinner.

Sophie Kennedy

The original aim, to raise funds towards our centenary dinner, is clearly a great success so far.

Recently a Centenary Supper was held, on the 14th November, at Rosemary and Gus' home with **Rosemary and Alison** as twin chefs. Of course they like a challenge so the two course meal was expanded to sneak in a starter of dips and tortilla chips and garlic bread. It was followed by a delicious chilli from Rosemary and then a chocolate and cherry mousse dessert, that



reminded me of a visit to the Black Forest, made by Alison. Somehow they stuck to the plan of creating a feast from £5 a head, ensuring we could add £80 to the funds so far. Quite a feat as we were extremely well fed.

It turns out there are lots of other spectacular wins from this series of suppers. Of course we know that Soroptimists have a special affinity with good food so enjoying a lovely evening together with food is always going to be a good idea. Happily different members have attended each supper and I feel that "happy accident" helps us all get to know other members a little better, outside of more formal meetings. It was really lovely to chat to three of our newer members, Sue S, Rachelle and Helen, pictured above, together with Carole, Rose and myself. The hospitality was excellent and I do hope we can continue to have such convivial informal events. I would like to encourage all our members to consider attending or hosting a supper during the year. I am happy to help if anyone needs a venue or prefers to work together, just give me a call. Perhaps we should modify the Soroptimist grace to "For Food, for friendship and for fun".

Fiona Spencer

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

Sophie hosted another Centenary Supper on Friday October 4th, our comments follow:



Great evening with fantastic food surrounded by strong, beautiful women!Alison Forster

Loved every bit of the evening. Firstly the warmth, ambiance and welcoming atmosphere, followed by a sumptuous meal with healthy conversation about women matters (& dogs) There was lots of laughter and a lot of learning from each other. We need more of these interactions I guess.Catherine Ngaira

A really great evening, delicious food. Thank you Sophie, you worked so hard to provide all this! Really entertaining company and good chat, was there a topic we didn't cover?!Hilary Dodd

Food, Fun & Friendship with like minded women, the true spirit of SoroptimismRosemary Steven

My dogs are very happy! (Alison)Especially now that we all know they are not the ones causing the itching! (Catherine)I guess they got their apology! (Fii)

Food, Fun, Friendship while Fundraising & we're all a bit wiser! Sue Underwood

Special thanks to Sophie from all of us!

****Remember Alison's Call for Action: What is YOUR Centenary Pledge****

As we approach the centenary of Soroptimist International Manchester, it's time to reflect on our remarkable journey and the impact we've made.

To honour this incredible milestone, we invite each member to participate in a special challenge: a pledge to celebrate our 100th year by committing to the number 100 in a unique and personal way.

*****Let's make our 100th year unforgettable, one pledge at a time*****

Sue Underwood: I Pledge to sell 100 items on ebay

I have purchased items from ebay over the years but I have never got around to selling anything. So, I pledge to sell 100 of my surplus 'treasures' on ebay, donating the total to our Centenary Fund.

Are YOU ready to declare YOUR Pledge?

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS



Sharon's Camino de Santiago de Compostela, Spain

Next March Sharon is taking the Camino Inglés or "English Way" & has offered to walk the 115km for our [Centenary Charity Fund](#)

The "English Way" runs about 115km/71 miles (five days) to Santiago from Ferrol in northern Galicia. It owes its name to medieval pilgrims from Britain, Ireland and other northern locations, who would sail to ports like Ferrol then complete their journey to Santiago overland.

It combines stretches along picturesque *rías* (coastal inlets) with sections across green countryside and through the medieval towns Pontedeume and Betanzos. All historic pilgrimage routes lead to the city of [Santiago de Compostela, Spain](#), home to one of Christendom's holiest sites: the tomb believed to hold the remains of St James the Apostle (called Santiago in Spanish) inside the city's [magnificent cathedral](#).

Sharon is a keen photographer (remember the Charter Lunch photos?) so we'll be able to share the views if not the pain! All we have to do is find the sponsors!

Sue Underwood

National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffordshire

Past member Judith Rolfe writes:

It may have taken 21 years but I finally visited the Soroptimist International Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum after not being able to attend when the area was dedicated in 2003.

A beautiful, peaceful and well-kept area despite being well into the autumn.

Judith Rolfe

I was President and in May (2003) I and several members braved a blustery day at the National Arboretum in Staffordshire to witness the dedication of the Soroptimist tree.

It has some growing to do but at least it will prompt visitors to ask 'who, or what, is a Soroptimist?'

When the iconic mound of the Armed Forces Memorial was built the Soroptimist International plot was moved to its current location. **Sue Underwood**



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

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

In June 2020 SIGBI President Isobel announced that the target of £10,000 for a statue on our plot, had been achieved from Members donations. The statue was unveiled in September 2021 by SIGBI President Cathy and IPP Isobel

Find out more about the National Memorial arboretum at

<https://www.thenma.org.uk/>



How about a visit to the National Memorial Arboretum during our Centenary?

A Day With An Australian Soroptimist

Fiona, Rose & Sophie hosted Terry Maunsell, National President of Soroptimist International Australia Inc. 🌸
We had a lovely time, taking in the beautiful architecture of Manchester with places like central library and the Midland Hotel, and of course taking in Emmeline Pankhurst's statue. We went down to Deansgate where we paused for a coffee in a cosy little independent coffee shop. ☕
We then passed through St Ann's Square, taking in Barton Arcade and the Royal Exchange Theatre. 🏛️
We followed this with a tour of Manchester Cathedral and finished with a lovely lunch at The Old Wellington, in the medieval quarter, which was built in 1552. 🍷
On the way back we popped into St Ann's Church in St Ann's Square to see the amazing windows.
It was so interesting to hear how they do things differently there and we were inspired to take away some of their ideas back to our club. Hopefully we can set up a friendship link to continue the relationship in the future.

🙏
All round a great day!! 🥂
Sophie Kennedy



Hi Sophie,

Thank you to you, Fiona and Rose for making time to spend with me today.

I really enjoyed meeting you all and we certainly were not lost for conversation. While we obviously discussed Soroptimist activities, there were also a lot of other topics covered. We were so lucky to have that wonderful guide at the cathedral.

I was also fortunate to get a "tourist" commentary from an elderly gentleman on the free bus home.

I look forward to my next visit and also hope to return the hospitality to any of your members who travel to Sydney

Terry

Terry Maunsell
National President
Soroptimist International Australia Inc 2024-2026



Friendship Link: SI Essen Victoria



Dear „Friendship-linked“ Sisters of SIGBI Manchester!

Nearly another year has passed by now.

So it is time to wish Merry Christmas to you and your families and a Happy New Year!

Have restful and happy holidays and a lot of health and positiv energy for the coming year(s):

Two years of celebrating your very special **100** year clubjubilee lie ahead of you.....wow!!!

We do wish you a wonderful and cheerful start into this exciting time! And we are looking forward receiving pictures and news from your wonderful club and your thrilling events.

In the name of all sisters of SI Essen Victoria

Anne-Dore Quack

Nadja Neu, President 2024/2025

Friendship Link SI Gdansk: The Sad Loss of a True Soroptimist



Maria Banaszak passed away during the night of 26/27th of November 2024.

She was a very active and lively person and we last met in October 2023. Maria, known to many as Mariola was a business woman in the field of Young People Education and International Exchanges. When we met in Gdynia in 2023, we talked about developing some projects that would bring the North of England and the North of Poland closer together. Mariola was such a thoughtful, sensitive and able woman. She shared with me her journey of learning English and getting a place at a prestigious Bilingual School in Gdynia, known as III LO.

Maria travelled to UK a lot as she supported Polish students at prestigious schools in the South of England. The English Language was a passion throughout her life.

It is so sad to lose a Soroptimist Friend and someone who co-founded Gdansk SI Club.

We send our deepest condolences to All Members of SI Gdansk and to All Polish Soroptimists who knew and respected Mariola during her life. Mariola had many international Friends and I know that You All will join me in sharing sadness and support with her Family and all who stood for Women’s Rights, Equality and Respect.

Goodbye dear Friend and thank you for leaving such thoughtful and rich legacy with us. You will live in our hearts and through our actions.

I will never forget that special walk close to the Baltic Coast, passing near our old school and sharing Soroptimist perspectives on life in two different cultures of Europe.

Our lives are richer for knowing you and your values.

With Respect and in Friendship

Malgorzata Kmita with Members of SI Manchester



*Maria from our
Winter Newsletter
2023*

Our New Friendship Link: Hello from SI Alsancak Club (Izmir- Turkey)



We have celebrated our 48 th Charter Year on October 23 2024. We are so happy to have had 48 years for dedication for improving the lives of girls and women. Photo (left) our members at our GALA DINNER.

We have activities with our Club bursaries (College Girls) and we regularly meet each month (called "Orange Coffee Meetings") to discuss a topic with a guest speaker. Below the photo taken from October meeting.

We have been working on a project called "Raising Awerness Among Disadvantaged Women Through Theater Arts".

Below the photo taken on October 27, 2024 to raise awerness for ORANGE DAYS. (3 of us with the Theatre group)



Bibliotherapy :

We montly meet at our Club's Bibliotherapy activity, each time we discuss a book about Women empowerment and prevent violence against women.



Peer Education Project:

We have started a project called "Peer Education". Our College student bursaries share their experiences on College preparation and University life with high school students. these photos have ben taking today's activity. (our College student bursary and me)

SI ALSANCAK, IZMIR-TURKEY
wishes all the Sisters of SI Manchester best wishes in 2025



WE INVITE YOU TO IZMIR and HOPE TO SEE YOU IN IZMIR IN MAY.....

We are planning a FRIENDSHIP LINK Meeting during **22-27 May 2025**.

Hope to see you in IZMIR



Dates for Your Diary

Tuesday 7 th January	6:30 for 7pm	Club Meeting (6pm for Centenary Planning)
Wednesday 15 th January	7pm	Zoom – Programme Action Meeting
Tuesday 21 st January	7pm	Executive Meeting
Tuesday 4 th February	6:30 for 7pm	Club Meeting – Speaker Helen from ‘Contact Hostel’
Friday 14 th February	7pm	Centenary Supper at Sue Silk’s home.
Tuesday 18 th February	7pm	Executive Meeting
Thursday 27 th February	7pm	Zoom – Programme Action Meeting
Saturday 1 st March	7pm	Pancake Party details to follow
Tuesday 4 th March	6:30 for 7pm	Club Meeting
Saturday 8 th March	From 10am	South Lancs Region PAC & Council Meeting
Sunday 9th March	12:30 for 1pm	99th Charter Lunch – replies by Friday 21st February please
Tuesday 18 th March	7pm	Executive Meeting
Tuesday 1 st April	7pm	Club Meeting
April		Annual General Meeting – to be arranged
Tuesday 15 th April	7pm	Executive Meeting
Saturday 17 th May	All day	North West England & IOM Regional Conference
Saturday 14 th June	7pm	Africa Night – 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.
The donations will go to our General Charities Account.



Copy for the Spring edition of the Newsletter by **Sunday 30th March**, please.

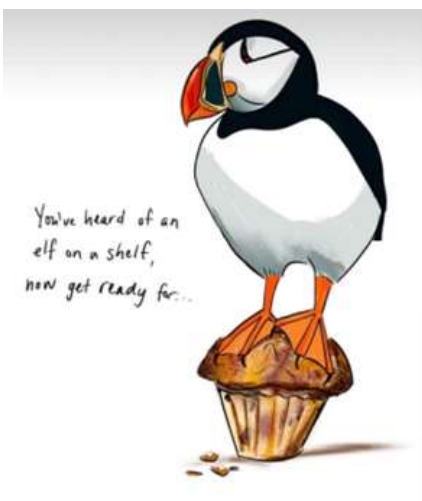
Looking forward to articles from each of you!

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

Last Words from a Women, a Bear & a Dog, who could/should have been Soroptimists!



**Your Christmas Selection Box! -
Find the Chocolate-based Confection or Assortment**

1. Definitely not before 20.01hrs
2. Mother's hostelry, perhaps
3. Voodoo in a box
4. Cow juice container
5. Song from "Fiddler on the Roof"
6. Floral items, could be climbing or tea
7. Single snowy deposit
8. This becomes you, according to the song
9. The "E" is missing from this pet food
10. Could be Park Lane, or Mayfair
11. A star cluster
12. Another star cluster
13. Oh look, there's another star cluster!
14. Sounds like bloomers!
15. Christmas and birthdays give rise to these
16. "Give us a ?, Anthea!" as Bruce might have said
17. Are you a ? case?
18. Sssh! Talk quietly!
19. Al fresco cuisine
20. In the mane, you'll enjoy this one
21. Like toast, or autumn leaves, maybe
22. Sounds like a sadistic nut, this one
23. Munificence!
24. This chap's "fruit" has gone brown!!
25. No, actually it's totally yellow!!
26. Serious bar, this, mainly for truckers
27. Half a flying machine? Could well be
28. This pub only sells cow juice
29. Passenger carrying vehicle, or maybe a club sandwich?
30. Mediterranean islanders
31. Clever little individuals, these
32. Gentle wave action
33. Beautiful lady from Istanbul
34. Up for discussion?
35. Superman, Spiderman and Batman are all these

Answers available (for a small fee!) from Fiona or anyone who was at the Christmas Party!



All the best for the festive period and for a happy and healthy New Year.
All our love, Sophie & Kev



We wish all Soroptimist's friends and their families a very merry festive period and a Happy & Healthy New Year
Rosemary & Gus



Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for 2025.
I'm enjoying getting to know you and hopefully I will be doing more to support the work of Soroptimists next year.
Sue (Silk)

May the spirit of Christmas bring you comfort, peace and happiness.
I shall be spending the holiday season in Dubai but will be thinking of you all and wishing you a wonderful time, however you choose to spend the day.
With love
President Carole



Best wishes for Christmas and for the New Year
from Maureen



Sending you all my very best wishes for a merry Christmas and a happy new year.
Hilary



Wishing all my friends in Soroptimist Manchester and their families a very Happy Christmas and New Year .
Love from Rose and John X



Season's Greetings for Christmas & Happy New Year
Love Shena & Barry



I wish to send very good wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all my friends in Manchester Soroptimist club.

I look forward to another successful year in 2025.
Love from Val x



Happy Festive Season
& New Year.
Peace on Earth to All.
Malgorzata

Wishing all members and their families a very Happy Christmas & good wishes for a peaceful 2025
Love Ann



May I wish everyone a very happy Christmas and I am looking forward to seeing you in the New Year, the work you do is amazing.



Wishing my new Soroptimist friends a lovely Christmas & Happy 2025.
Thank you for your warm welcome & support.
I love what we stand for & do!
Rachelle

Sending Christmas Greetings to all my fellow Soroptimists and their families

Hope the New Year brings Health, happiness and fun with those you love.

Fiona, Paul, Alex and Ciara
X

Have yourself a merry little Christmas, make the Yuletide bright.....

Lorraine





When I met the women of S I Manchester crew
 I could never have imagined just how much they do.
 From volunteering, friendship and cream teas galore
 WomenMATTAs, Act4Africa, United Nations and very much more
 Improving the lives for women and girls
 I can't wait to see what next year un-curly!



Left to right: Freddie - Otto - Maggie (daughter of Poppy & Otto) - Poppy - Ruby & Maggie (white Maggie mother of Freddie)

Thank you to all at S I Manchester for the warm welcome to your club.
 Wishing you a peaceful festive break.
 Helen



A wonderful happy Christmas to you all!
 Susan & David





Wishing you all a peaceful and happy festive season
From Kathleen in Wales



Merry Christmas!
Wishing You & Yours
Health & Happiness
In 2025
Sue U x



This was my Christmas hat for our
2020 Zoom Christmas Party!



Our thanks to Shena for the following verse.

MY GARDEN

Here are some ideas for your garden for daily living

Plant three rows of peas
Peace of mind
Peace of heart
Peace of soul

No garden without turnips
Turnip for meetings
Turnip for service
Turnip when asked

Plant three rows of squash
Squash gossip
Squash indifference
Squash selfishness

And in our garden we must have thyme
Thyme for each other
Thyme for family
Thyme for friends

Plant three rows of lettuce
Lettuce help one another
Lettuce be kind
Lettuce us be patient

Water freely with patience
And cultivate with love
There is much fruit in your garden
Because you reap what you sow



From Newsletter Winter 2013





Fun, Food and candles for our Friendship Links

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

