

President: **Barbara Blaber**

Issue No 70
Winter 2018

Dear Club Members,

Back in October, relaxed after three weeks stirring a pool in Provence, I heard myself volunteering to take on this Newsletter.....but, I am only the one who puts it together, the content depends on ALL OF YOU!



I have always looked forward to reading the Newsletter, particularly if work and life had meant that I had missed meetings and events. In June 2003, I remember I was a very proud President when our Newsletter won the first Rose Bowl challenge, presented by Regional President Carole. Kathleen was editor by then, but in my Oscar style acceptance speech, I hoped that previous editor, Margaret Johnson was watching from her cloud! (Note 'the jacket' is already in service!....my hat was supplied by Kathleen!)

It is my privilege to attempt to follow in those footsteps. So, here we go with my first attempt at your Newsletter.....
Sue Underwood

President's Message November 2018



The theme of the last 6 months has been one of Celebration.

Four clubs in our region celebrated their 80th Charter anniversaries, including our daughter clubs Bolton and Stockport. In July, a birthday tea party was held at Haydock Park Golf Club for members of all four clubs and their mothers – a lovely event on a glorious day. I also attended both Charter events and did my bit as a proud Mum – taking part in Stockport's "Pathways" presentation, which set out the history of the Club, and Bolton's cake cutting ceremony (and very lovely cake it was too!)

As a Club, we have been able to celebrate the Women's Words project nominations for both the Spirit of Manchester Awards and the Manchester Culture Awards. Sadly, the project didn't win in its categories, but it is still a wonderful achievement and a great way to raise awareness of SI Manchester.



I was very disappointed that HEAL Mayuge was not voted in as the next Federation project at the recent SIGBI Conference in Liverpool, but very honoured to bring home the Programme Award for Economic Empowerment for our HEAL Malawi project.

And of course, there was plenty of champagne later that day when our own Sue Underwood was installed as the new South Lancashire Region President!!

On a personal note, this autumn has seen my husband and I both reach milestone birthdays and 30 years of marriage. The first part of our celebration was a rather eventful tour of Northern Britain with our motorhome, returning home a week early due to an injured dog, Storm Ali and a leak in the bathroom at home! The dog is absolutely fine and the leak is fixed. We did see some wonderful scenery along the way and I had time to read my six manuscripts for the Leeds Literary Prize. The second instalment of the celebration was an afternoon watching Manchester United Women from a hospitality suite at a very familiar venue, Leigh Sports Village. I was so impressed with the quality of the football that I have bought a season ticket! Last but not least, our Leicester-based celebration took place on a caravan site in Swithland Woods on what was fortunately a very mild and sunny day! Let's hope for lots more to celebrate in the coming year!

President Barbara

SIGBI Conference 2018

This year's Conference was eagerly anticipated for several reasons, it was close to home, in our Region, in Liverpool and, very importantly, our own Sue Underwood was to be installed as President of South Lancashire Region. Accommodation was booked well in advance and great consideration taken on a suitable venue for the Celebration 'Party' to welcome in our new Regional President. Arrival was somewhat haphazard due to pouring rain and navigating areas of demolition and re-building. However, a warm welcome awaited from Sue, in the apartment I ended up sharing with her in 'Yvonne's place.' Now into their 90's, Kathleen and Yvonne had decided that this would be their last Federation Conference, but they would make sure they were both there to see Sue installed as President and to celebrate with her and the rest of the Club and their Regional friends afterwards. One down, with the loss of Yvonne, Kathleen and daughter Hilary later arrived into the same apartment block as Sue and me and were settled on the fourth floor, having negotiated the lift satisfactorily on the "Maserati mobility Scooter" (my name for it, not Kathleen's.....did you ever see her and Yvonne showing their handling skills in and out of corridors and lifts?). All was well for the Opening Ceremony!



The Parade of the Flags of the Countries and Territories of the Federation is always a stirringly moving occasion and with our members and those of our Region carrying the flags it was more so. They did well. We were proud of them. Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Christine Banks, welcomed everyone to her vibrant City which, according to her, has not one but two of anything important... two Cathedrals, two Liver Buildings, two Theatres and I lost track after that, not being fluent in Scouse, but as, appropriately, a woman Mayor, she was most enthusiastic and welcoming. Lighthearted entertainment

followed from local duo 'Brothers of Swing' getting delegates up and 'dancing in the aisles' and the evening made a relaxed and enjoyable start to what was to come.

The daily programme shared time between keynote speakers, Programme Action Projects and Federation Business.

The 'Programme' speakers and presentations were generally well presented, with up-dates on running programmes and presentations on prospective ones. Although we were successful in being placed in the top four submissions again for the Federation Project, we did not win, the vote going to Empowering Girls from Nepal rather than our HEAL Mayuge project. We were later awarded a Best Practice Award for our HEAL Malawi project, undertaken in our 90th year as a Club.



My favourite project report was on Tomorrow's Women Wirral, an on-going successful project following the setting up of Heswall Centre for 'out of prison' Probation services, Legal assistance, Education and the helping of women coming out of prison to return to normal life with marketable skills and confidence.

A close second came the up-date of the 'Toilet Twinning' project. It never ceases to amaze me that 2.3 billion people still do not have somewhere safe to go to the toilet....even after years of this project working on it. Yes.... my downstairs loo is 'twinned', I can look at my toilet twin by virtue of Google Earth providing the co-ordinates and have been to the area in Nepal where the toilet was built following the terrible Earthquake not long after I had visited. Long may the project continue work towards all people having access to safe toilet facilities.



Keynote Speakers varied from being of interest to current or possible projects to inspirational and frivolous. It is impossible to review each adequately in one newsletter, so I will tell you my favourites!

Emily Rose Yates, herself disabled, gave a spirited presentation on Access and Inclusion for Disabled Travellers. Bearing in mind that currently 15% of the world's population are disabled and in a recent survey 66% of people asked said they would actively avoid giving assistance, it becomes quite an issue. It's not just accessibility in shops, restaurants, the workplace or travel, but in educating those who are not disabled in how to deal appropriately and sensitively with those who are. She has now produced Lonely Planet Guides on Travel for the Disabled to illustrate her closing statement "Realising your capabilities whilst struggling with your disabilities, you know what you can't do, but you can then find out what you can."

Dr. Ann-Marie Wilson spoke on "28 Too Many" relating to the 28 African Countries who, despite continued efforts to stop it and the fact that 22 of those Countries have an actual Anti-FGM Law, continue with the practice of FGM.

There were some scary figures and graphic descriptions: globally, every 10 seconds a girl is cut, 10% of whom will die. Over 25 million women and girls live with the adverse effects of FGM and more than 137,000 UK girls are at risk, the practice continues.

Sally Kettle brought a completely different atmosphere to the auditorium with her inspirational undertaking to be the first woman to row the Atlantic. No matter what knock-backs there were.....and there were quite a few, she 'rose to the occasion', solved the problem and managed to complete the task....twice! Who would have thought a phone-call to Mum saying "my partner can't do it now, will you come with me?" would result in an immediate 'yes'? Obviously it was more complicated than that and utterly unbelievable at times, but that sums it up.

Helen Pankhurst challenged the audience to respond, actively, to issues they thought had progressed or been solved since the first group of women got the vote 100 years ago, relating to what The Suffragettes and Suffragists were asking for then and where we are now. That generated a great deal of discussion, in and out of the Arena.

Sir Ranulph Fiennes was amazing! Totally enthralling and extremely funny account of his life as the world's greatest living explorer and a humble man, with accompanying slides of everything from stunning scenery to the injuries, including frostbite and cutting off your own fingers, It was a perfect way to finish the proceedings.

The social side of the event was eventful for S.I. Manchester. We met and re-met Soroptimists from many other Clubs eating lunch and drinking coffee where a great deal of sharing of ideas and fun was had and Friday saw us meeting up for a meal, in a Spanish Restaurant in Albert Dock, as a Club. Sharing of small dishes, wine and Valencian Orange Gin was followed by a long, slow walk back to Coffee at the Hotel of Rose and Rosemary. Much enjoyed and smiling, Sue, Jeff and I arrived back at our apartment block in the small hours to find the lift 'out of order'.....We immediately thought of Kathleen and Hilary on the fourth floor and how they would manage tomorrow. Morning came and the lift signs were still in situ, so it was reported to the Receptionist that this was 'difficult' as the time for start of Conference was half an hour and they seemed to think that Kathleen would have to walk down.....quite how to get 'the Mazarati' down did little to persuade them. Eventually, after a great deal of negotiation, by Hilary, and Kathleen missing all of Friday morning's proceedings, the Lift Engineer brought Kathleen and the Mazarati safely down, but they were then faced with not being able to go back up there. Hilary, bit between her teeth, brought Kathleen to the Arena and arranged their 'escape'.



So, Kathleen was able to enjoy the rest of the activities and see Sue installed as Regional President, but then left for home without the pleasure experienced by everyone able-bodied enough to climb the stairs to enjoy the Celebration at our Apartment. Over 60 people and copious amounts of Champagne and nibbles saw Sue welcomed as Regional President by our Club members, other Clubs and officials from our Region and visitors from far-flung parts of our Federation. Kathleen and Hilary arrived home safely and Sue, Jeff and I 'put our feet up' and toasted 'absent friends' with



more of a meaning to this than usual.

Susan Hollick

Liz's Story So Far

I found out about Soroptimists through friends who are members of SI Nottingham club who shared positive experiences from their work. Since then, for quite some time I considered joining.

November 2017 I finally took the plunge as it were ! Went on SI Manchester's website, accessed the details and sent Rose an email I was pleasantly surprised when I promptly received a reply as it was a Sunday !

Rose kindly invited me to the Christmas party at her house which I thoroughly enjoyed !

It was such a bubbly, warm , friendly & welcoming experience. I decided to join the club !

I then met up with Sue Hollick whose welcoming & reassuring manner soon made me feel less anxious and less apprehensive.

I have since attended and enjoyed several events some of which I managed to get my friends to attend !

I must say I've learnt a lot and continue to learn from all club members, a group of genuinely friendly, inspiring passionate about the cause and very kind ladies. Which other club would the President personally drive me to events?

I look forward to the future and sincerely hope I can help make positive contributions to the work of the club .

A big Thank you to every one

Elizabeth Aniteye (Liz)

Memories of the Isle Of Man

In 1959, I went to the Isle Of Man. Sadly, I was at the age of 15 and I had just lost my father, but my mother took me and my seven year old sister to 'have some sun'. I thought I might see some of the boys but, no chance, as my little sister was shadowing me! I met Barry and fell in love with his Rugby blazer badge.....little sister was always there – what a turn off! The three of us went on walks along the prom', strolled through lovely gardens, rides on the horse drawn trams, played crazy golf, visited fairgrounds, amusement arcades, a hypnotist show and, eventually without our shadow, the Palace Ballroom.

Where have 59 years gone? On this summer, we returned for a few days to relive memories. Marvellous! Amusement arcades gone, now bright hotels and clean streets. Ballrooms gone; bawdy theatres gone; the horses still there, plodding gently up and down. People were so friendly and shops so clean, as were cafés and inland pretty tiny towns and hamlets. The countryside was still so beautiful and everything within such easy reach. The weather was kind, with good crossings.

The island was so enticing and relaxing.....so glad we went back and rekindled so many happy memories. Would we go back? – Yes! – but not to leave it another 59 years!

Shena Cuttle

Friendship Visit from Martinique

It was a great pleasure for members of our club to welcome Michelle on Tuesday the 13th November. Michelle, a retired English teacher, was one of the many kind members of SI Alizes-Sud club in Fort-de-France who took me under their wing during March 2017 when Gus was critically ill in hospital in Martinique.

SI Manchester subsequently established a friendship link with SI Alizes-Sud (one of four clubs in Martinique) and Michelle and I continued a very warm personal friendship. Michelle was very keen to meet Manchester Soroptimists and it was a great privilege to welcome President Barbara and 11 club members to an evening of International friendship at our home. *(Supper was delicious! Sue)*



Val Moss led proceedings reminding us all of our values as an organisation. I outlined (for the benefit of our newer members) the circumstances which led to a 5 week traumatic stay in Martinique. The outcome of the care and surgery Gus received are as wonderful as meeting the fantastic members of the Fort-de-France club.

Following supper, Regional President (our own) Sue outlined how SIGBI and Regions assisted Clubs to reach their objectives and thrive. President Barbara gave a history of our Club and described our current projects locally and internationally, before presenting Michelle, on behalf of the Club, with a book of the history and unique features of our city and a pennant as a gift to our friendship link club.

Michelle then gave an extremely interesting account of SI Europe, the French Union including the overseas clubs in French Regions (similar to our Regional structure). Many projects are very familiar, giving support to a Mental Health Organisation for Women, domestic violence victims, supporting local students and many more meeting Soroptimists goals. The warmth, friendship and international good will demonstrated ensured a most enjoyable evening.

Rosemary Steven (President Elect)

Commercialism of Christmas.

As some of you already know, I attend the 'Fabric of Protest' textile workshops at the People's History Museum. It was a big year for us, as some of our work was exhibited over the summer. I was so proud to have mine and my mum's work up on the wall of the UK's national museum of democracy.

Last Christmas we had an 'Anti-Christmas party', where we could share our seasonal gripes as well as eat lots of mince-pies!

I was inspired to create this decoration, a protest against rampant commercialism and its impact on the environment.

It's made from 100% reclaimed waste material - such as food wrappers, bubble wrap, carrier bags and an old tee-shirt.

If you'd like to know more about the workshop or would like to come along, please let me know. *(As I prepare this, I'm looking at Elaine's beautiful beaded star from a previous Christmas card! Sue)*

Elaine Loader



Membership News

It is with great sadness that we have to say 'Goodbye' to Peggy Howarth who passed away peacefully on Sunday 2nd December. Peggy was 99 years of age and had her sights set on being around to receive her telegram from the Queen. (More about Peggy in the next Newsletter. Sue)

I would like to start a new 'slot' here, 'Memories of Members', to share our stories of members no longer with us. This has been a poignant year for me, not only saying Farewell to Yvonne, but also to Angela (Fidler) who first introduced me to Soroptimism and the Manchester Club.... & now Peggy who was always kind to me as a new member. Please send me your recollections, I'll attempt to find appropriate photos, given time.

Sue

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Many Happy Returns to all members celebrating a birthday before the next issue of this Newsletter.



Lillian Kyampaire	30 th	December	Elaine Loader	23 rd	January
Clelia Gatley	8 th	January	Sally Carr	31 st	January
Stella Kay	14 th	January	Rebekah Readhead	25 th	February
Kathleen Beavis	14 th	January	Beatrice Leigh	27 th	February

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Tuesday,	11 th	Dec 2018	Members' Christmas Party at Manor Court, Manor Avenue, Sale.
Friday,	14 th	Dec 2018	Unveiling of the Emmeline Pankhurst Statue.
Sunday,	27 th	Jan 2019	Chain Gang Lunch to meet other Presidents etc of the Region.
Wednesday,	30 th	Jan 2019	Coffee Pot Lunch at the Wycliffe Hotel, Edgeley.
Sunday,	3 rd	March 2019	Charter Lunch at Swinton Park Golf Club.
Thursday,	11 th	April 2019	Annual General Meeting. Details to follow.



Christmas Greetings:

We are grateful to all who, in lieu of cards, have sent their Christmas greetings on the following pages.

The donations will go to our General Charities Account.



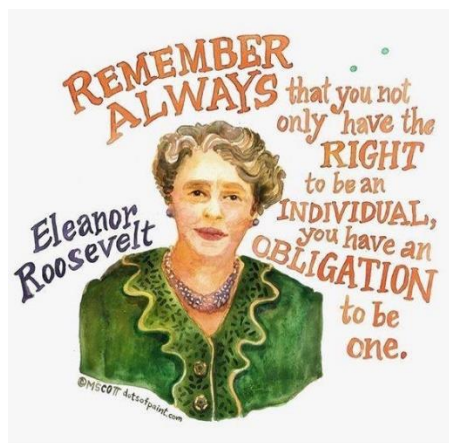
Copy for the next edition of the Newsletter by **Friday, 15th February**, please.

Personal anecdotes always welcome.

Send in your 'Memories of Members' and 'Last Words'

Sue Underwood

Last Wordsfrom Women, and a bear, who could/should have been Soroptimists!



each time
a woman
stands UP
for HERSELF,
she stands
UP for ALL
women.
MAYA ANGELOU



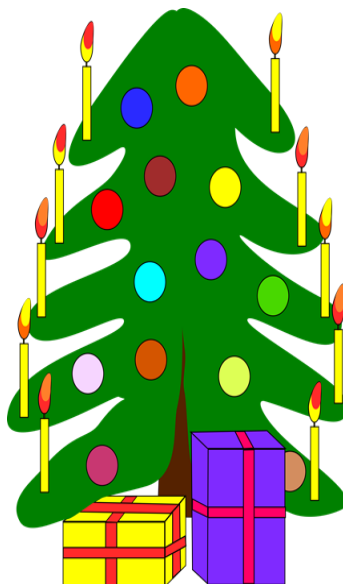


Season's Greetings to all
my Soroptimist friends and
their families.
With very best wishes
from Barbara B x



We wish all our members and
families a
very Happy Christmas
and New Year
from
Rosemarie and John

Sending wishes for a
joyful Christmas
& a Happy New Year
Rosemary & Gus



A very Happy Christmas
to all Soroptimists and
their families with a
great New Year in 2019
Stella

We wish you joy over the
festive season and health
and happiness for 2019.
In friendship
Fiona, Paul, Alex and
Ciara



With Christmas Greetings
& Best Wishes for the
New Year
from
Barry and Shena



Merry Christmas!
Health and happiness to
you and yours in 2019
Sue

Merry Christmas to all
members and their
families
Val





Best Wishes
for Christmas
and the New Year
from
Pat



Happy Christmas and all
good wishes for 2019
Ann



Happy Christmas
from
Barbara and Mario



With all best wishes
for Christmas and the
New Year
Lynne Enoch



Love and best wishes to you
all and your families for
Christmas
from
Susan and David.



Joy at Christmas and
Peace and Good Health
in the coming year
Love to all
Kathleen



Warm greetings to you
and yours
from
Maureen and Bill



Wishing everyone a
hopeful, happy and
healthy New Year
Elaine



To all my Soroptimist
friends wishing you a very
good Christmas and a
happy and healthy New
Year from Clelia

