

## Soroptimist International Hereford & District

Soroptimist International of Hereford & District was rechartered in 2007. The original club, which had been extraordinarily successful in supporting the town of Hereford from 1948-1992, was disbanded because of difficulties in recruitment.

In 2005 Jane Roper - a member from SI Brecon - mooted through Mary Lloyd, (the Development Officer for Midland Arden Region at the time), for permission to reinstate a club in Hereford, and with hard work and determination we were able to re-charter in 2007.

The Regional Officers of Midland Arden played a prominent role by supporting us in our ventures and travelled long and tiring distances to meet us for which we are incredibly grateful. The initial progress was helped enormously by the addition of three Soroptimists who had moved into the Hereford area, plus a member of the original club who was happy to rejoin and encourage us.

At the time of Charter, we had enlisted 21 members. We held monthly meetings and advertised in the local media to encourage membership in the run up to the Re-Charter.

### Roll Call of Presidents: -

Jane Roper	Founder President 2006/08
Stephanie Jones	President 2008/09
Marcelle Lloyd-Hayes	President 2009/10
Elizabeth Roberts	President 2010/11
Carey Godwin	President 2011/12
Marcelle Lloyd-Hayes	President 2012/13
Rosemary Rigby	President 2013/14

Unfortunately, our numbers reduced considerably in 2012 and we were left with only half our membership. This meant that it was exceedingly difficult to continue with all the activities that we had undertaken prior to 2012. In order to overcome this problem, we re-formatted our activities to become a 'Light Touch Club'. This

placed less of a burden on our existing membership, and we have therefore been able to retain our Club, though in a less active format.

## Recent History

Since 2012 we have been successful in recruiting many new members. However, sadly they have not remained with us. Reasons for leaving were canvassed via leaving questionnaires, which were then channelled back to Federation. It appears that when it comes to weekends, women prefer to spend them on family activities rather than in meetings.

Since our Charter in 2006 (the year we formed a club prior to Re-Charter) we have contributed to the following charitable causes/organisations:

Noah's Ark Trust  
Mayor's Charity (Acorns Children's Charity)  
Women Victims of War  
Open Arms Orphanage, Malawi (3-year support)  
School in a Box Scheme  
Hereford Women's Aid  
Fair Trade  
Day of Work in Gardens at Hereford Hospital  
Malawi Fund - Education of small children  
Humanitarian Aid to Bosnia  
Tools with a Mission  
Children of Peace Charity  
Moon Walks x 3 times  
Close House Project  
Licking Lassa Fever Project  
Jewelry Recycling 2009-11  
Fresh Start Uganda  
Salt of the Earth 2009  
Shelter  
Bras in Cardiff Bay  
The Haven, Hereford  
Cini UK  
Orchid Walk

RDA Hereford  
St. Michaels Hospice  
Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre  
Fistula Hospital in Addis Ababa  
Medical Centre in Gambia  
Violence Against Women Project 2010  
Furnishing and Decoration of the Women's Rape and Crisis Centre  
Hereford Care with a Chair Project, Hereford, Leominster, Hay-on-Wye and Ross  
Violette Szabo Museum  
Ross Action Committee  
Breakthrough Cancer Research UK  
The Haven, Hereford (2015)  
Target Ovarian Cancer  
Sir Ranulph Fiennes walk for Marie Curie  
Meru Garden Project  
Women, Water and Leadership  
International Project in Nepal 2016  
Wormelow Horse Whisperer  
Water project in Cape of Good Hope South Africa – in partnership with SI Cape of Good Hope  
Hope Spring Water (Alleviating Water Poverty)  
Annual Fund-Raising Stalls - usually at least one per year, four in 2019!  
Morse Bag - demonstration and making of bags by members.

We presently have 11 members who have been working extremely hard during the past year. What we find increasingly difficult is taking part in activities within the Midland Arden Regio. As we are so far south meetings are a considerable distance to get to, especially during the winter months.

Whenever we hold our stall areas or open meetings, we try to advertise our local Regional and Federation programmes so that the public are aware of the diversity of the Organisation. We have welcomed many members who attended our ten-year anniversary luncheon, and also the friendship of our Worcester neighbours at our 2019 Christmas luncheon.

This year we were delighted to welcome back into Club one of our founder members, Marcelle Lloyd-Hayes, a former Mayor of Hereford who has rejoined since

retiring from Council activities. I am attaching a press cutting featuring her prestigious inauguration as a Freeman of the City of Hereford, which we were all delighted to support. I am proud to say that it has been one of the most inspiring events I have ever participated in as a member of Soroptimist International.

Since joining Soroptimist International in 1992 I have made many friendships all of which have been superb. The standards that have been demonstrated have been second to none and something which I do not wish to dilute, either as a member or as an Organisation.

We have some photographs which I will attach to this resume of what SI Hereford have achieved since Chartering in 2007.

J. Roper  
Secretary/Treasurer and Founder President