

## FUNDRAISING

# Group behind swimathons says goodbye

**A local organisation that has raised a huge amount of money for charity has closed after 82 years.**

The Leamington and Warwick branch of Soroptimist International closed on March 31. The group said that the decision was taken after much deliberation, adding that the falling membership meant that the club could no longer continue its involvement with various community projects.

These included the club's very successful annual swimathon which raised over

£174,000 in 19 years for local charities and causes.

This event, held at Warwick School, attracted teams ranging from Scouts to solicitors. The *Courier and Weekly News* has entered teams into the event and continued to support it with publicity in the paper.

Soroptimist Gillian Ingham said: "The club celebrated its 82nd anniversary last June. When it was chartered in 1936 members were mainly drawn from the teaching and medical professions.

"Over the years its members included many 'mov-

ers and shakers' who played an active role in public life in Leamington and Warwick as well as women prominent in their professions ranging from legal, journalism, marketing, charities, floristry, catering.

"All had a common interest: to continue the tradition of service to the local community, to help women in this country and overseas to achieve their potential through 'educate, empower and enable' programmes and to have an equal voice in creating strong and peaceful communities worldwide."