**A Brief History of Soroptimist International Bromsgrove and Redditch**

**Charter and Insignia**

The club was chartered in October 1966 at the Golden Cross Hotel Bromsgrove. There were 17 at the first meeting following the charter.

Our archives include proposals on the insignia to be adopted, reporting on discussions with the local authorities and the College of Arms with a view to incorporating the arms of both Bromsgrove & Redditch. In the end, a simpler design was agreed upon. The Insignia was first worn at the 21st Charter Dinner of Kidderminster, our Mother Club, in 1973.

**Friendship Links**

We have had several friendship links over the years with the longest being with SI Neuss in Germany. This friendship link is just over 30 years strong and we still make exchange visits regularly. Our latest link is with Burton on Trent club.

**Members**

Many of our members have received national recognition for the work they have done.

Four of our club members have served as Regional President (Mary Inglis, Margaret Toole, Nancy Doyle and Gail Teague) and also members have served on Federation Committees.

**Charities**

The club has supported many charities over the years, international, national and local, including:

Alzheimer’s Society

Basement Project in Bromsgrove

Breast cancer unit Worcestershire

Help the Aged

Help for Heroes

Home-Start North East Worcestershire

Karma Nirvana

Meru Garden Project

Newspapers for the Blind

Night Stop in Redditch

Water Aid

West Mercia Women’s Aid

We have worked in partnership with other agencies to provide support or much needed help, including recent projects addressing modern day slavery and trafficking.

For hands-on projects, we have:

- Decorated rooms to enable children to receive supervised visits in a convivial area

- Planted Trees

- Maintained a sensory garden at Saltways Cheshire Home

The attached photos are just some from our archives

A group of people posing for a photo

Description automatically generatedA group of people posing for a photo

Description automatically generatedA picture containing photo, indoor

Description automatically generatedA close up of a sign

Description automatically generatedA necklace hanging on a wall

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