



Soroptimist International

South Lancashire Leader

Women inspiring action
transforming lives

Editor - **Norma Parry** - SI Ashton-under-Lyne

Volume 7

Issue 1

November 2017



THE FEDERATION CONFERENCE IN CARDIFF, saw the handing over of the South Lancashire Regional Chair of Office from one Margaret to another.

In the photograph the new Federation President Sue Biggs, is flanked on the left by outgoing President Margaret Molyneux and on the right by incoming President Margaret Davies.

With Federation President Sue being from the neighbouring Region of North West England and Isle of Man, there are three Lancashire lasses together.

A message from our Incoming President

A huge 'Thank You' for your kind wishes, words of support and beautiful cards which I will treasure for many years.

We had a good Federation Conference in Cardiff and I am pleased to report that there was representation from every club in South Lancashire. The total number of South Lancashire delegates was 119 which is excellent

The theme for my year is '**REACH OUT**'. Our Federation has always reached out both at home and beyond but I would like us to think about reaching out further, engaging and developing communications with other organisations and charities. We need to build new connections, form strong partnerships and possibly link together with other service organisations and plan a joint project together.

We are a great organisation

We do amazing work

We must 'reach out' and tell our stories.

I am very much looking forward to our Regional Conference in Southport at the Ramada Hotel on May 12th 2018.

There will be five super speakers who will be informing us about Human Trafficking, Nepal, Empowerment, the Meru Garden Project and Dementia. Further details at regional meetings and via club secretaries.

Our next SIGBI Federation Conference is in Liverpool in October 2018. These two conferences in the North West will give us an ideal opportunity to advertise our clubs and inform prospective women about our work both in the UK and Internationally.

Raising our profiles will increase our membership and we can use all the tools available on the SIGBI website in the Members Area which is regularly updated with leaflets, Infographics, Headers for Twitter and Facebook. Take photographs at your events and send them in to SIGBI to enter the photo competition.

Membership Month is just around the corner in May 2018 and I would like to ask clubs "What are you doing"?

Remember you can hold an event at any time of the year.

In friendship

Margaret Davies

A message from our Outgoing President

What a year it has been!!

It is now four weeks since I relinquished my Chain of Insignia to our new Regional President Margaret Davies and since then I have been reflecting on the past twelve months and the pleasure I have had in visiting all 15 Clubs both on formal and social occasions.

The characteristics of all the Clubs and its membership are so different and yet have the common thread of 'Making a Difference' in our diverse communities.

I can now look forward to more family time and of course holidays!!

Thank you for allowing me to have the honour and privilege of being your Regional President for the past year.

I would like to close by offering Margaret Davies my warmest wishes for a very happy and memorable year of office.

In friendship

Margaret Molyneux

OUT AND ABOUT IN THE REGION . . .

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE

Soroptimists in Ashton-under-Lyne have a very good reputation for collecting things . . . so when the club heard about a project which collected ring pulls from drinks cans which are then made into jewellery and handbags by disadvantaged women in the UK and in the Philippines, we thought this is a job for us.

The Charity is known as "The Purple Community Fund and is run by Jane Walker in Southampton.

In 1996, disillusioned with her career in the newspaper industry, Jane headed over to the Philippines for a rethink about her future. What was supposed to be a short break ended up being the start of a brand new life.

Jane established the Purple Community Fund which brings education, work and qualifications to those in the Philippines and also to those most in need here in the UK. The aim is to help socially disadvantaged women go forward in their lives with renewed confidence, self-esteem, and with the ability to work and earn money so they can look after themselves and their families.

Throughout the summer we have manned stalls on Ashton Market and also at Ashton Masonic Open Day where we have been both collecting ring pulls and selling the goods they have been made into.

Each ring pull is worth 4p and over 35,000 ring pulls have been collected by club members, friends and relatives over the summer, which equates to approximately £1,400.

All the ring pulls were transported to Cardiff where they were passed over to Jane who said she was "over the moon" with our collection. and did not know if there would be room in her car to get them all home!

Jane is pictured below second on the right, with members from Ashton-under-Lyne having handed over the ring pulls.



CROSBY



Over 75 girls and four boys from seven local schools were encouraged to consider careers in STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) when they attended a conference organised by Crosby Soroptimists.

Nine inspirational young women outlined their careers, explaining the entry route into their chosen professions. Their audience of 14-16 year-olds then divided into smaller groups and took the opportunity to questions each of the speakers further.

Plenty of information was available on each of the STEM disciplines and associated careers; plus there were hands-on scientific experiments to try – including creating Lego racing cars.

The contributors were:-

Amanda Hughes, assistant chief engineer for military trainer and transport engine products, Rolls Royce

Sajni Halai, project engineer at Jaguar Land Rover

Marianne Thomson, finance and leader development programme manager, BAE Systems

Katherine Reynolds from the accounts receivable team in military air and information, BAE Systems

Jessica Jones and Natasha Politt, specialist biomedical scientists, Royal Liverpool University Hospital Trust

Noelia Pitrelli Vazquez, research officer, St Paul's Clinical Eye Research Centre, Liverpool

Nina Finlay, consultant engineer and project co-ordinator

Caroline Nurse, building structural engineer at ARUP



This was the second STEM conference organised by Soroptimist International Crosby: club members are keen to maintain this strand of project work.

Club President Annette Hughes works in engineering; her daughter Amanda gave one of the presentations. "I am absolutely delighted with the success of the event – feedback from the schools has been extremely positive" said President Annette.

"We really hope the event will have helped when the students make their subject choices for GCSE. It has opened a window on STEM and maybe set some of them on an exciting career path."

FAWLTY TOWERS ARRIVES IN CROSBY



Basil and Sybil with staff Manuel and Polly moved north in November to welcome residents to a quiz in hastily rented dining rooms in Blundellsands. Sadly, Kurt had been sacked so a sandwich buffet was the best that the management could offer.

Unexpectedly, a hygiene inspector was also in the audience causing some confusion and worry as well as a visit from furry friends. However, guests in the dining room, despite insults being hurled, were full of 'bonhomie' and generosity helped Basil to raise nearly £1000 for charities and good causes in the local area.

Our photo shows the reception area with Manuel and Sybil prepared to welcome guests

... WITH NEWS FROM THE CLUBS

LEIGH & DISTRICT with WIGAN

The two neighbouring clubs decided to join forces to organise an event for club members to raise funds for the Meru Project.

Almost 40 Soroptimists enjoyed a vegetarian themed buffet supper with homegrown plants, herbs and vegetables for sale. The speaker was Pam Warhurst CBE, who hails from the Leigh area, but has lived in Todmorden West Yorkshire for many years.

Pam spoke about the ethos 'from small acorns large oak trees grow' in explaining her inspirational project 'Incredible Edible' developed in Todmorden.

Members of the community have planted sustainable vegetables and fruit trees in a wide variety of Public spaces such as areas around Health Centres, Police Stations and derelict patches of land for the benefit of the whole community. It is hoped that food produce grown by individuals can become an economic enterprise selling items in local markets and to encourage schools to undertake mini 'Incredible Edible' projects.

Pam was thrilled to learn that SI Leigh, in partnership with City Hearts and Wigan Council, has already planted apple and pear trees in a local park.

The Meru Soroptimist event was deemed a huge success and £259 was raised.

Club Presidents' Angela Holmes (Wigan) and Pat Woodward (Leigh) pictured below with Pam Warhurst CBE, expressed the view that further joint projects could be developed in the future.



BOLTON



At the Charter Lunch on 5th November, President Margaret Baker, welcomed a new member to the club. At 19 Jodie, a University student is the youngest member that the club have ever had.

Jodie shares the ideals and vision of Soroptimism and wants to make a difference to the lives of women and girls. She is a most welcome addition to the club and it is exciting to have her youth and enthusiasm on board.

Around 70 Soroptimists and friends helped to celebrate the club's charter this year and it was a very enjoyable afternoon. It was also the first official outing for our new Regional President Margaret Davies.



SOUTH LANCASHIRE REGIONAL ONE DAY CONFERENCE

Date: **Saturday 12th May 2018**

Venue: **The Ramada Plaza Hotel,
Promenade,
Southport PR9 0DZ**

**Ladies, put the date in your diaries and
join us for an interesting and informative
day.**

**Booking Forms and Advance Information, with
directions to the hotel, will be available at the
November Council Meeting.**



MODERN DAY SLAVERY EVENT AT MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL



DESCRIPTION

An event was held at Manchester Cathedral on Monday 30th October, hosted by The Very Revd Rogers Govender, Dean of Manchester, to highlight the very real issue of Modern Day Slavery.

Protecting Vulnerable People' is a multi-faith, multi agency public event which aims to raise awareness of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking in Greater Manchester and what is being done to tackle it.

Guest speakers included Baroness Beverley Hughes (Deputy Mayor of Greater Manchester with responsibility for Policing and Crime), Paul Broadbent (Director of Ethics and Policy at the Co-op) and Phill Clayton (Regional Manager, City Hearts).

There were face-to-face cafe conversations with workers and agencies on the front line combating people trafficking and freeing victims, informative displays, refreshments and entertainment.

This event has been organised by Manchester Cathedral and members of the 'Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Multi-faith Forum', in collaboration with Stop the Traffik and Greater Manchester Police Modern Slavery Unit. People of all faiths or none were very welcome to attend this exciting and informative event, which was visited by over 200 people.

Soroptimists from Manchester, Leigh and District and Ashton-under-Lyne clubs in South Lancashire were there to hand out literature about The Purple Teardrop campaign, 'The Spoon Project' and Child Sexual Exploitation and of course to give out information about Soroptimist International.



South Lancashire Region

After the recent UKPAC survey on Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery when clubs in the Region participated, speakers on the subject at the Cardiff Conference gave the impetus for Soroptimists in the Region to play an active part in a Manchester Cathedral event the day after Conference!



The title of the Forum – 'Modern Slavery: Protecting Vulnerable People' provided almost 200 members of the public and professionals with details of support services, employment opportunities and partnership working in the Region to tackle the major issues for potential and actual victims.

Soroptimists were able to showcase relevant examples of work carried out both in the region and nationally. Opportunities to explain the Soroptimist ethos produced positive enquires about membership and resource materials were provided.

Raising the profile of our organisation by examples of project work has endorsed the concept of Programme in Action!

Margaret Molyneux
Immediate Past Regional President.