



### 100 years of Soroptimism

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**1st - 3rd October 2021**

**"What are you doing to  
mark our 100th  
Anniversary in 2021?"**

The FMB wants to establish a working group to plan and implement our celebrations.

Interested? Contact Gina Coad in the SIGBI office via email at:

[hq@sigbi.org](mailto:hq@sigbi.org)

### 2019 Bowls Tournament planning starts in April

Fun, Friendship & some Feisty Competition



*Some of last year's Supporters & Players - will you be there this year?*

### International Women's Day 8th March 2019

How did you celebrate?  
Send me your news & photos  
for the next edition

Welcome to the second edition of the resurrected South Lancashire Leader, a quarterly newsletter reporting on what our members get up to when no one is looking!

This edition highlights the fact that Soroptimists don't hibernate in Winter – they carry on their fantastic work wearing a few more layers and they 'scrub up well' for some fun!

Members are loud and proud too, utilising local radio and newspapers to spread the word as well as social media platforms such as Instagram.

Thank you to all who contributed and I look forward to reporting your future endeavours on behalf of the region. Editor Debbie Oulton (SI Crosby).

## Get Ready for a Chain Reaction



(L-R), Federation President Sue Williams, Regional President Sue Underwood.  
IPP Margaret Davies

Food and friendship prevailed at our **Chain Gang Lunch**.

Region and Club Officers chatted with new members and those interested in taking Office. Regional President Sue Underwood said; "It was a privilege to welcome Federation President Sue Williams to tell us about her route to SIGBI President and her first few months in Office. The 'Role Call' enabled those interested in another Office to see who to speak to for further information and insight".

## Club News from around the Region

### SI WARRINGTON shout it out across the airways

Club members Jackie Alexander and Rhona Bowler appeared on the Culture Club programme of Radio Warrington which interviews local people about their clubs, interests, etc. in order to showcase what is going on in the town and the groups which people can join.

"It was a sort of Desert Island Discs format" said Jackie, "We both had to choose three pieces of music which were played in between the questions and answers".

The ladies talked about Soroptimism (what it is, when was it founded), and what sort of activities the club gets up to,



including STEM activities with a local high school, support of local Women's Refuge and the Foodbank, plus wider areas of Soroptimist focus such as Modern-Day Slavery, the Meru Garden Project, and our UN Lobbying role.

"We also covered the practical details about when and where we meet every month, and answered questions about ourselves as individuals and the type of people who get involved in Soroptimism", continued Jackie.

"We have been offered some poster space in the local bus station to advertise the club, free of charge, and are working on that now".

*L-R Rhona & Jackie SI Warrington*

*Top tip from these local media stars: 'Look for a local radio station with a particular show which highlights local societies etc., and be prepared to showcase what you are doing for the community both locally and overseas!'*

### SI LIVERPOOL "Walk for Freedom"

**D**o you know if your local nail salon, car wash or favourite takeaway uses trafficked workers? We have to ask ourselves these questions!!



SI Liverpool Club members attended the A21 'Walk for Freedom' event on Saturday 15th October in support of Anti-Slavery Day.

Over 80 people walked in single file, in silence, around the city centre, to raise awareness of human trafficking.

Engagement with members of the public plus vibrant visual posters attracted attention and spread the message of awareness that we can be inadvertently part of the human trafficking problem through ignorance.

The event was co-organised by club member Annette Maudsley (pictured in the frame on the right), a border control officer and a key member of "Stop the Traffik" organisation.

*Story and photos courtesy of Anne Grimes SI Liverpool*



## SI STOCKPORT Sew-A-Thon



Stockport Soroptimists have been undertaking their own 'Sewing Bee' Sew-A-Thon over recent months.

The aim has been to provide colourful and use appropriate bags to hold the syringe drivers that deliver drugs to patients either under the skin or into a vein.

The bags not only disguise the clinical nature of the drivers but also enable more patient mobility.

Beneficiaries who were gifted the bags, include patients of local district nursing teams and those in local Hospices.

*Story and photo courtesy of Ingrid Whiteman SI Stockport*

## SI LEIGH & DISTRICT a Blueprint for Working in Partnership

Soroptimist International Leigh and District, supports The Red Box Project, a community led campaign that seeks to address Period Poverty in schools. **Josie Carter** explains how they did it....

**The Red Box Project**

### Tackling Period Poverty

**Problem:** In the UK, some young women in our schools are finding it difficult to access sanitary products.

**Result:** Tearful panics in the loo. Wadded up toilet roll. Anxious embarrassment. Missed lessons. Missed education.

**Solution:** The Red Box Project collects donations of sanitary products and pants from members of our community and puts them into red boxes to give to local schools. The Red Box Project supports disadvantaged young women throughout their entire period.

[www.redboxproject.org](http://www.redboxproject.org)

A simple concept which relies on the kindness of the community to give donations of menstrual products; Red Boxes are given to schools to help prevent unnecessary absences, which could affect the education of girls taking time off because they cannot afford sanitary items.

The Project provides for a full period, not just an emergency and the box includes a supply of knickers in various sizes for emergency needs.

Our Club Programme Action Officer, Lynda Parkinson is coordinator for the Leigh area of the Borough, with the support of club members. We also work in partnership with *Leigh and Tyldesley Inner Wheel Clubs*.

The first step was to ask local businesses to have donation points which different team members look after; we have 13 of these so far. We then contacted local

High Schools to offer them a Red Box for their pupils, topped up when required, as this is an on-going project. Six High Schools have signed up so far.



We soon needed somewhere to store donations and Club member Dorothy Bowker offered us a place at The Bridge at Leigh, which is in the town centre and central for distribution purposes.

Our next step is to engage with junior schools, community hubs, girl guides, army cadets, air cadets etc to expand the reach of the project.

*Photo: PA Officer, Lynda Parkinson (far right) with Morrison's Store Community Champions, - write-up courtesy of Josie Carter*

## SI WIDNES HAVING A BALL



photo courtesy of Wendy Ross-Barker S.I. Widnes

The lovely ladies of S.I. Widnes held a Charity Ball last November in support of the Alzheimer's Society.

It was a 'glittering' event, with dinner, dancing and entertainment.

As well as being a fantastic social evening and a great excuse to dress up; the event also raised over £1,000 for the Charity.

## SI CROSBY INSPIRING FUTURE GENERATIONS

Crosby members came together as a team and used their various skills to plan, advertise and present their third STEM CONFERENCE to teachers and girls from seven local secondary schools.

Communications Officers Ann and Eileen arranged for club member Steph and her apprentice, Danielle (Jaguar Land Rover apprentice of the year) to record an interview with Radio Merseyside and made use of social media with Twitter and Facebook updates throughout the event.



Events & Social Chair Margaret D, headed a team of members making items for the 'Mad Science Corner'. Highly entertaining but also demonstrating that STEM careers are not gender specific and only require interest, inclination, ability and hard work. This year's theme was Robots and Rockets and props included launchable paper rockets; robots; fun with magnets and items demonstrating anti-gravity; computer simulation and space time continuum.

Ten female speakers were stationed around the room and school groups moved between them, carousel fashion, to hear about their experiences in, what are often, male dominated work roles. These ladies are forging careers in civil engineering, environmental consultancy, bio-medical science, medical research and new technologies.

A before and after show of hands indicated that more of the girls attending would now consider a career in STEM.

