



### INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 8<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2022

Showcase your Clubs' activities on the SIGBI Website. If you hold an event, please send a good photograph by the following day to [sally@sigbi.org](mailto:sally@sigbi.org) and no more than 10 words (to include Club name) describing your activity.



#### What colours symbolise International Women's Day?

Purple, green and white are the colours of International Women's Day. Purple signifies justice and dignity. Green symbolizes hope.

White represents purity. The colours originated from the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) in the UK in 1908.

#### United Nations observance of International Women's Day

Start date: 08 March 2022

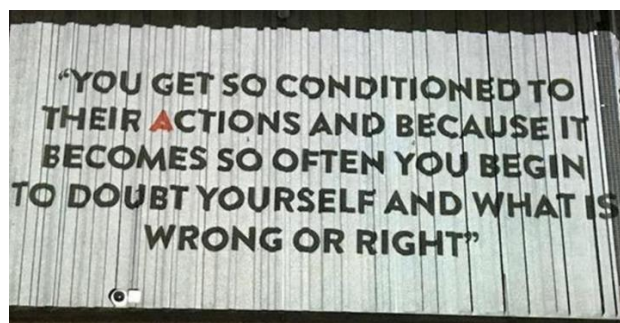
Start time: 10:00 UTC -05:00

Location: Virtual, UN WebTV

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/events/2022/02/international-womens-day-2022#event-content>

## Soroptimists Shine a Light on Violence Against Women

Members of SI Leigh & District joined Wigan Council in marking The International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women by lighting up Leigh Town Hall 'ORANGE' and projecting messages onto the Turnpike Building on the town hall square.



## Club News from around the Region

### SI Ashton under Lyne – Tremendous effort



Club members have been very busy planting cherry trees in their local area; King George V playing fields in Ashton under Lyne.

Four members really got stuck in and planted around twenty trees, even getting down on their hands and knees – that's dedication for you!

An added bonus has been the contact made with the Friends of King George V Playing Fields, whom the Club hope to work with in the near future.

*Contributed by Jill Dewsnap*

### SI Stockport & District

Jenny, one of our supporters, saw an appeal from Stepping Hill Neo Natal Unit for items for the unit.

Jenny had kindly knitted little waistcoats, hats and bonding squares on behalf of SI Stockport and district.

How lovely and much appreciated they were.



Our oldest member, Pamela, who is mostly housebound has been busy again. Pamela knitted and decorated 30 twiddle muffs which were collected by a Dementia Nurse from Stepping Hill Hospital. We know the twiddle muffs will have been of great help to the patients.

*Contributed by Joyce Garside*



## SI Manchester – ‘Eat to Beet Climate Change Challenge’

Last year, under the direction of our Program Action Officer Barbara, the Club undertook a complete review of our broad spectrum of Programme Action initiatives. We established two sub groups ‘People and Prosperity’ and ‘Planet’ resulting in a fresh focus, evaluation and new priorities as we move forward.

To demonstrate the Planet group’s ‘Eat to Beet’ challenge to adopt vegan or vegetarian diets during January and beyond, a buffet party was held at Rosemary’s home.

Ten members contributed menu dishes ensuring that we could all experience a wide variety new to our tastebuds. We commenced with a ‘Taste of Greece’; several traditional meze including hummus, tzatziki fava and skordalia, followed by a wide range of main courses including vegan curry, vegetarian chilli, vegan jambalaya and both vegan and vegetarian sausage rolls. Desserts included vegan choc pots, fruit tart and a delicious fruit salad accompanied by a vegan cream.

Recipes were exchanged amidst a true Soroptimist spirit of fun and friendship, culminating in a fund-raising raffle. All present agreed that it had been an educational and eye-opening experience to the many culinary delights of a greener food experience, so far we’re enjoying the ‘Eat To Beet Climate Change Challenge!’



## SI Manchester – Still Zooming!

We all agree that it’s good to be back when we can, but we’re still making use of Zoom.....

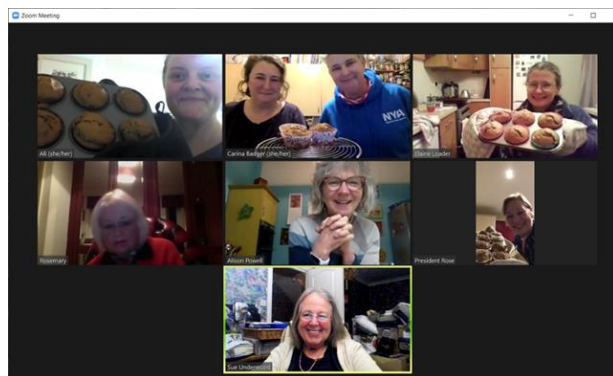
### ‘CookAlong’ with Ali

Inspired by her new Jewish cookbook and the club’s ‘Eat to Beet Climate Change Challenge’ for January, Ali merged the two and found a recipe (courtesy of Tori’s for muffins) that are baked for the Jewish festival of Tu B’Shevat.

These muffins incorporate the seven species of the Torah: wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives, and dates.

Members enjoyed cooking along with Ali and their muffins were enjoyed by family and friends.

*Contributed by Sue Underwood*



## SI Crosby – Trees, Teas & Tinsel

An annual Christmas Tree Festival takes place at St. Faith's Church, Crosby, with groups and organisations sponsoring and decorating trees for charities they support. SI Crosby members have taken part for a number of years, choosing a theme that highlights our work. Our theme for 2021 was in line with President Chris Smith's focus; the club's links with Waterloo Primary School.



SI Crosby raised funds to purchase laptops for Waterloo Primary School children to enable learning at home during lockdown and decorations made by Year 5 children, many featuring laptops, were used for the tree. The 2020 festival was online, so members enjoyed a return to taking part 'in person'.



Club members staffed the refreshment marquee for the annual 'Light Up a Life' event in the beautiful woodland grounds of St Joseph's hospice in Thornton, where families could remember their loved ones. Members have helped over many years at this special event and provided the chance for people attending to warm up with a hot drink and seasonal mince pie.

The cold and wet December weather didn't deter Crosby Soroptimists and Santa from raising hundreds of pounds for local charities supported by the club. Shoppers in Formby were greeted outside the Waitrose store by Santa and his Soroptimist elves. The Christmas float, generously loaned by Crosby Rotarians, toured Thornton and Pam McKee, SI Crosby fundraising co-ordinator, paid tribute to the public who donated over £800 and the volunteers who supported the event.



SI Crosby partnered with Crosby High School, a special school for pupils aged 11-16, to plant trees in the school grounds. The trees are a welcome addition to the Forest School which began around three years ago and provides alternative learning experiences including the development of personal strategies such as resilience and perseverance.

The Dianne Oxberry Trust is named after the broadcaster and meteorologist, well known in the north-west of England as a long-serving TV and radio presenter for BBC North West.

Dianne passed away suddenly and unexpectedly after being diagnosed with ovarian cancer. Sylvia Pearl, from the trust, spoke to Crosby Soroptimists about the work of the charity and its aim to raise awareness of the symptoms of ovarian cancer.

*Contributed by Jill Boggan*





## SI Southport - get Crafty, get Digging and get Chatting

We held our annual Christmas Fair at the end of November in a local church hall. The photos show some of the wonderful stalls, which included hand-made craft items, a tombola, raffles for a Christmas hamper and a delicious Christmas cake made by one of our members, as well as the ubiquitous cake stall.

Over £700 was raised for our Charity Fund, from which we distribute donations to local charities in Southport. Well done to Jean Tweddell for organising.



To support SIGBI's tree planting activities for our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we procured saplings from the Woodland Trust and arranged with Green Sefton to plant them in Hesketh Park. We braved the December weather to join friends from the Rotary Club of Southport and colleagues from Green Sefton and Hesketh Park volunteers to plant 210 saplings, which included rowan, hawthorn, blackthorn, silver birch, dogwood, wild cherry and pedunculate oak. The saplings are still very small – but we visit them regularly and encourage them to grow!



The club has continued with 'hybrid' meetings to give all members flexibility to attend meetings in our club room in Baverstock House or remotely via Zoom. Our speaker in January, prospective member Jill Newsham, gave a fascinating illustrated talk on three notable department stores – Boothroyds, Broadbents and Bobbies (later Debenhams) along with some amazing photos. The presentation is available on the Atkinson website and certainly worth viewing.

Joss Glanville organised a Programme Action meeting in February and we welcomed on Zoom Liz Haworth from our friendship link, SI Windemere. Liz is from the Freshwater Biological Association and presented a very informative talk about the track of Wynlass Beck in the beautiful Lake District, a project that evolved as she walked her dog during the first lock-down

We have now set up a WhatsApp group for members so we can get information and messages out quickly. There is a regular exchange of news, ideas, greetings and jokes and this facility seems popular. Hopefully this will continue to be well used, as we have now started planning activities for our upcoming 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, which we celebrate in 2022, as well as some PAC initiatives - so more news in the next Lancashire Leader!

*Contributed by Ghislaine Fletcher*

## SI Liverpool – 95 Years Young

On Sunday 27th February, SI Liverpool hosted their 95th Celebration Charter Lunch. We had beautiful weather and a fabulous location to go along with the delicious food and wonderful friendships.

We were joined by an array of members and their families but also tremendous support from a number of the regional clubs in our area which was greatly appreciated.



Among the guests were the COO from our President's charity 'The Dianne Oxberry Trust' and one of their trustees, Eamonn O'Neal from BBC Radio Manchester who provided not only an update on their work, but also reminisced about when he worked with Dianne.

It was a great afternoon enjoyed by all.



*Contributed by Annette Maudsley*

*As a thank you from Club President Debra and in anticipation of United Nations World Bee Day on 20<sup>th</sup> May, guests were given a gift of wildflower seedbombs.*

*The seeds were harvested from Liverpool wild flowers and wrapped in a pretty, bee motif cloth.*

*The name Debra has its root in Hebrew, and means "bee"*

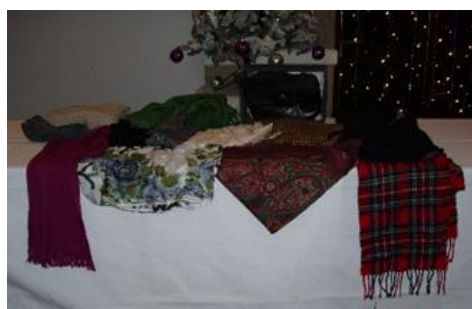
*What a lovely idea.*





## SI Widnes – Providing Comfort & Joy

On 7 December 2021, members gathered together to celebrate Christmas with a meal at the Church View Inn, Widnes. There was excellent attendance and we all enjoyed a lovely meal and the opportunity to meet socially for a chat. Our Social Secretary, Sheelagh, would like to thank all members for making this occasion such a success.



Scarves, gloves and hats were brought by members to our November meeting, to be donated to 'Trinity Safe Space', which supports refugees and asylum seekers in Widnes and Runcorn.

## SI Widnes – Care in a Bag

The Women's Hospital delivers and cares for 8,000 babies each year and has an outstanding neo-natal unit. Kate came to our January meeting to collect our pyjama donations and tell us all about a project at the Hospital.

Kate explained how Hospital staff have been providing clean pyjamas for patients arriving in soiled nightwear in the middle of the night after a miscarriage or other pregnancy or non-pregnancy related emergency.

This is known as 'Care in a Bag' and provides women with some dignity. Each bag contains pyjamas or black leggings, wipes, deodorant, shower gel, toothpaste and brush as well as sanitary towels.

Sadly, demand has increased to the extent that staff were struggling and they appealed on social media (where Maureen's daughter saw the article) and approached local companies.

Our members donated 36 pairs of ladies' pyjamas of varying sizes to this very deserving cause.



*Contributed by Wendy Ross-Barker*

## Greetings from Ramsbottom Soroptimists

One of our ongoing projects is to collect items to donate, on a regular basis, to our local food bank, Porch Boxes. They are a registered charity providing crisis packs of food and toiletries to local agencies to distribute to people in need.

At Christmas time we collect money from members in lieu of sending each other Christmas cards and choose a local charity to benefit.

This year, Porch Boxes informed us that they were desperately in need of UHT milk for their crisis packs so



we purchased over 100 litre packs (shoppers in the supermarket were rather intrigued - good opportunity to get our name out there!) and delivered them to their distribution warehouse.

Pictured are some of the packs and one of the Porch Boxes volunteers who helped to unload.

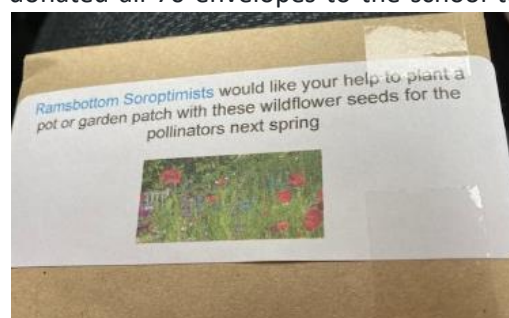


Our club is celebrating its 70th anniversary this year and we have identified several projects related to "70" to complete during the year. One of these was to make up 70 small envelopes containing wildflower seeds to give to local children to sow.



A local school, Emmanuel Holcombe Primary, recently completed a wonderful outdoor play area and has a piece of land perfect for a wildflower meadow - so we donated all 70 envelopes to the school to complete the area.

Pictured is one of the envelopes with our message and President Denise presenting a Year 6 pupil with the box of envelopes during an assembly. We can't wait to see it in full bloom!



*Contributed by Ann Bennett*



## SI LEIGH & DISTRICT

Our member Pat Woodward celebrated a very special birthday and was 80 years young on 28th November. We held a celebratory afternoon tea at the Victorian Tea Rooms in Culcheth and also marked Lancashire Day, with a hot pot supper and a Lancashire quiz.



The proceeds from our 1920's 100 years celebration were used to purchase personal protection alarms for the Independent Domestic Violence Advisers working in Wigan Hospital.



We have previously supported the I.D.V.A.'s and this time they asked for the alarms for vulnerable people, to help them feel safer on the streets.

Our kindness project continues to provide support to the local Start Well Family Centres - on a monthly basis we take donations of toiletries and personal care items. We have also supported the Family Welfare counselling service at their new facility based in Leigh by providing toiletries and period products to help users of their Mental Health Cafe.

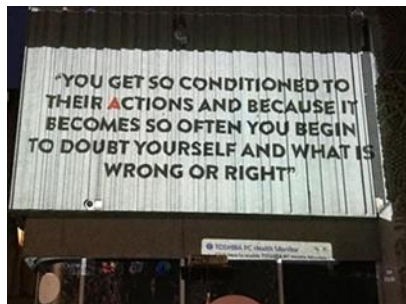


Whilst working on The Red Box Project, we supplied The Northwest Ambulance Service with period products for their staff, emergency calls handlers and dispatchers, who ensure ambulances are prioritised and sent to save lives.

They work long shifts under constant pressure and need to stay focused at all times, whatever the time of the month. We received a request asking us to point them in the right direction for fresh supplies and we were only too happy to help.



SI Leigh Members joined Wigan Council in marking The International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women by lighting up Leigh Town Hall 'ORANGE' and projecting messages onto the Turnpike Building on the town hall square.



Contributed by Lynda Lilley