



Congratulations !



Pat William SI Crosby
Lifetime Honorary Member



Anne Grimes SI Liverpool
Lifetime Honorary Member



Avis Freeman SI Leigh & District
40 years' Service

SI Crosby Member Goes the Extra Mile



Jill Boggan (pictured right) swapped her desk and her role as Director of Finance for the archdiocese to get behind the wheel of a van to deliver aid for the people of Ukraine. The journey took five days and covered 2,800 miles, travelling through six countries.

Jill and her co-driver left Liverpool as part of a convoy and drove via Eurotunnel to France. Then it was on to Belgium and the Netherlands. After an overnight stop, they drove through Germany and finally to Krakow in Poland.

Jill's trip was part of the archdiocese's '#liverpool4ukraine' appeal. More consignments of much needed medical supplies and aid are planned.

Jill, President Elect of SI Crosby, said: "I volunteered to go on this trip because I wanted to do something direct and useful to help people in Ukraine who urgently need the supplies we're taking to them".

Contributed by Jenny Stannistreet - read the full story on SI Crosby's website [Ukraine trip April 2022](#)

Club News from around the Region

SI Ramsbottom – Cricket, Cake and Coronets

Ramsbottom Soroptimists held an afternoon tea with entertainment in May for local Senior Citizens at Ramsbottom Cricket club. The theme was the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and guests were entertained with



Contributed by Ann Bennett

traditional songs and music as well as a short quiz to exercise their minds as well as their voices! Sandwiches, cakes, juice and tea or coffee were enjoyed by all. This is a regular event and a place at the table is always coveted by the local residents.



SI St Helens – Flower Power



Members of SI St Helens spent a morning planting 100 blue and yellow flower bulbs in one of the local parks to show solidarity with the women of Ukraine and mark 100 years of Soroptimist International.

In the evening a group of members attended a women's networking event. President Sheila gave the opening address and we were able to share information on Soroptimism and meet with 2 prospective members as well as enjoying delicious cake.



SI St Helens – Helping to Provide a Safe Refuge

Children escaping domestic violence and coming into the local Refuge are often frightened and confused and have left everything familiar behind them.

After discussions with the Refuge staff and thanks to the support of the Arnold Clark Community Fund, we purchased sets of child friendly bedding as the children often have difficulty sleeping.

Members provided Easter cheer to women and children in the local Refuge - Hugs in a mug for the adults and Easter eggs for the children. We also donated period products, toiletries and washing powder.

The local foodbank was desperately short of foodstuff, toiletries and period products. Thanks to a successful bid to the Arnold Community Fund, the Club was able to provide four trolley loads of supplies which were gratefully received.



The Club launched a new project on 25th May to coincide with the Orange Day of Action against gender-based violence. Working with local organisations to support victims of domestic violence by providing a basic start up pack to get them started in their new homes. So far, we have received support from B&Q and Morrisons as well as a generous donation from Tesco to fill ten buckets.



Our bee keeper member Edwina, gave us a talk to mark World Environment Day and National Bee Day. The photo shows Edwina in all her gear, complete with smoker which she wore to the meeting!

All stories Contributed by Anne Jones

SI Leigh & District – Rugby Tackle Important Issues

International Women's Day 2022 *Break the Bias



In order to mark International Women's Day, Leigh Soroptimist 'went to the rugby' to *Break the Bias. In partnership with Leigh Centurions, we were striking the pose, with the players on the pitch prior to the game with an announcement on the tannoy.

We had our gazebo outside the ground and supporters of all ages had a picture with our selfie frame, we made a video of the pictures, which was shared across our social media pages and on Leigh Centurions social media.



SI Leigh & District – Kindness Matters



We held an open meeting in February, where members and guests heard about the work of The Bridge at Leigh - one of the charities we have worked closely with, especially during lockdown.

We showed videos of the work carried out by SI Leigh over the years, to kick-start our membership drive.



In March, Member Julie Cook gave an excellent insight into her work as a Senior Midwife on the Early Pregnancy Unit at Leigh Infirmary.

Julie spoke about the numbers of women who come to the unit only to find out that they have lost their unborn babies and the trauma associated with this devastating news. She explained that they are also involved in research into the causes.

The club donated candles and angel wings to go in the emergency bags that are given out to the ladies to provide emergency essentials and also some comfort in the days and weeks ahead.

UKRAINE! We were horrified at the news coming from Ukraine, and wanted to offer some kind of support.

The club agreed to send a donation of £500 to Epiphany Trust, a locally based charity already working in Romania, supporting the refugees fleeing the War. We also donated lots of items from our Kindness project via a collection point at Leigh Parish Church.



SI Leigh & District



Easter saw SI Leigh deliver a car full of Easter Eggs to the Women's Refuge. The Eggs were donated to The Bridge by a local business and delivered to the refuge in time for Easter.

Pictured right to left: Dorothy, Catherine and Ellie from The Bridge and below Refuge Manager Cherry receiving some of the eggs.

Avis Freeman received her 40 years certificate at our AGM in April. A huge thank you to Avis.



Club members wore green to highlight Mental Health Awareness Week.

Staying with the theme of Mental Health, President Dorothy, as a Trustee, was presented with a cheque for £500 to furnish a wellbeing room at The Bridge, to support people struggling with their mental health.



Meet our 'YOUNGEST' ever member! Nineteen-year-old Ellie was officially welcomed to the club in May.

Ellie is a supervisor at The Bridge and found out about us through our partnership working. She wants to help us make a difference to the lives of women and girls in our community and across the globe. We're sure she will be a great asset.

All stories Contributed by Lynda Lilley

SI Widnes



Easter Bingo

On Tuesday 8th April 2022, SI Widnes held our Easter Bingo at Holy Family Club, Cronton. This was our first 'in person' social event for two years, following the Covid -19 Pandemic restrictions being lifted. There

was a buzz in the room, probably due to this. Members

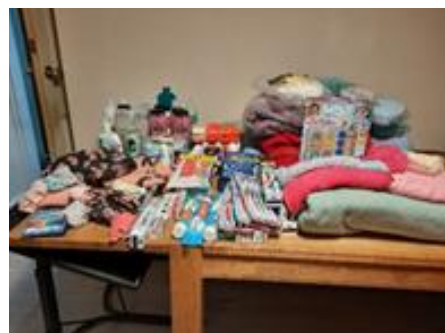
of SI Widnes, former members and friends of our club had been incredibly generous with donations of chocolate and other prizes. There was a very good attendance at the event. Former SI Widnes club member, Patricia Quarton was our bingo caller. She did a sterling job. The night was a great success and we raised £573.63 for our charity fund. We had a raffle, as well as the bingo. Attendees were asking when is our next bingo event! We had good support from John Brennan, Steward of the Holy Family Club.

Denise Parker



Ukraine: I was amazed by the speed and generosity of Club members when the call went out for donations of goods for the Ukrainian refugees who were making their way to Poland. We learned of the collection on the morning of our Business Meeting and lo and behold, members turned up with all sorts of things from the list of required items. The items were taken to Riverside College, delivered by minibuses to the central collection point, then loaded onto a lorry and transported to Poland.

Contributed by Yvonne Gibbon



SI Stockport

Club President's Charity, Independent Options, held a Spring Fair, despite two major breakdowns at the centre which threatened to ruin plans completely.

Two members of SI Stockport knitted the chicks and rabbits for the crème eggs and children's Tombola prizes were donated by the Club.

The event was attended by the Mayor and Mayoress of Stockport and was a great success in raising much needed funds for the Centre.

Contributed by Joyce Garside



Outstanding Soroptimists are Honoured by their Clubs

SI Liverpool – Anne Grimes



During the Club's recent Change of Insignia, Anne Grimes was made a Lifetime Honorary Member of SI Liverpool.

Anne is pictured with President Lynne Cottrell and Immediate Past President Debra Curtis and is holding the inscribed vase she received from the club to commemorate the award.

Contributed by Debra Curtis

SI Crosby – Pat Williams

President Margaret Davidson announced that Pat was to receive Honorary Life Membership of the club. Given for 'distinguished service' this is a very special award – given to a very special woman.

Pat's commitment to SI Crosby and wider Soroptimism has seen her take on various club roles, including President, as well as regional responsibilities, including Membership Officer and (currently) Treasurer.

Pat worked extremely hard during the pandemic to keep up members' spirits. For this special work – as well as for her unstinting service – Honorary Life Membership is SI Crosby's expression of thanks to an outstanding Soroptimist.



Contributed by Jenny Stanistreet

Read the full piece on SI Crosby's website

SI Manchester – AgeUK Salford Boat Race

On Saturday 21st May, seven members of SI Manchester (and a friend) took part in the annual Age UK Salford Boat Race on sparkling Salford Quays.

We are 'land-lubbers' so the first year we ran the refreshments stall, the second year the tombola and this year we did both!

The club's involvement is due to our Daisy Cross (Soroptimist) Trust. This is a small charity, whose Trustees must be members of the club. The remit is to help elderly people who are in distress.



So, when given the opportunity to volunteer, as well as making a financial donation, it seemed a perfect fit. The organisers are always grateful for our help. Of course, we didn't waste the opportunity to showcase Soroptimism!

We took our new 'SumUp' card reader for a spin too, to the relief of the many people who were tempted by the delicious cakes, baked by Age UK staff and volunteers. The stalls raised over £700 for Age UK Salford and Daisy Cross donated £100 on top.

As you can see from the photos, we were fully branded with banners, bibs and sashes, raising the profile of our club and giving us opportunity to talk about who we are and what we do.

Some of the Soroptimist team insisted on a photo with Emma from Age UK Salford and a member of the winning boat team from 'Healthwatch Salford'

It was a great day enjoyed by the participants and ourselves. And there was cake to take home too!

Contributed by Sue Underwood



SI SOUTHPORT IS 90 YEARS YOUNG!



The club was chartered in March 1932, a few years after our mother club, SI Liverpool.

To commemorate and celebrate our 90th anniversary, thanks to one of our new members, Bernie Reynolds, we were invited to create a display in the foyer of the Atkinson in the town centre during May. For those not familiar with Southport, the Atkinson is the town's home for music, theatre, art, literature and history - a multi-purpose creative arts centre.

We borrowed from the SIGBI office two of the centenary banners and put together a slideshow and photo display, showcasing some of the club's activities over the last nine decades. We were also able to display many of the artefacts from the club's history, including our original charter and an early Minutes book from 1933. We had a display case with artefacts from our 6 Friendship Links - SI Caserta, SI Dhanmondi, SI Gdansk, SI Horsens, SI Lisburn and SI Windermere.

We left some contact cards on the display and hope this exhibition attracts some new members. As is the case with some other clubs, our numbers are declining and we are really in need of new young(er) members who can address the issues of today for women and girls.

See this link: <https://www.theatkinson.co.uk/exhibition/soroptimist/>

To continue our anniversary year, we held a celebratory lunch at the end of May. We were delighted that Soroptimist International President Maureen Maguire joined us, along with South Lancashire Regional President Dorcas Akejus, Lynne Cottrell, President of our mother club, SI Liverpool and Angela Holmes, President of our daughter club, SI Wigan.

President Maureen described her two-year project 'Opening Doors to a Bright Future' with the aim of delivering tangible benefits to some of the world's most marginalised women, girls, and their communities. We were thrilled that President Maureen took time out of her busy schedule to share the occasion with us and we cannot forget the wonderful support we have had from other South Lancashire clubs, SI clubs from further afield (including from Exeter and St. Albans) and from other service organisations; Rotary, Lions, Inner Wheel, Probus – and, of course, from our families!

On behalf of President Carol Cookson, we thank you all for making this such a wonderful occasion.



Contributed by Ghislaine Fletcher

SI Warrington – Spreading the Soroptimist Word

President Rhona, ably supported by club members Jackie Alexander and Helen Crombie, erected our Soroptimist stall at the local annual May Queen event in Lymm, near Warrington. Events like this are a great way to raise awareness about Soroptimist activities and attract new members.



The kids enjoyed the raffles too; "Name the Rabbit" and "The Sweetie Challenge" (guess how many in the bottle) went down a storm and we got to chat to mums and older sisters about our activities too!

Photos by Renuka Kotecha/Jackie Alexander

TREE PLANTING AT DALLAM COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

One of our local primary schools has created a new garden with raised beds for vegetable planting. They have also set aside a space for a small orchard, and we are delighted to report that one of the first trees was donated by SI Warrington – a plum tree to mark our Soroptimist Centenary.

This new development will allow the school to teach children where food comes from, alongside a nature project with a newly renovated pond. Funds are scarce in this more deprived area of Warrington and consequently outdoor areas are often not developed. SI Warrington has also donated outdoor play toys for this area and will be continuing to support the school in future, where our very own Dr Margaret Emsley is a school governor.



Photos by Rhona Bowler

A Crosby Soroptimist drove to Poland and Ukraine, delivering aid collected by the Archdiocese of Liverpool.



Jill Boggan, President Elect of SI Crosby, swapped her desk and her role as Director of Finance for the archdiocese to get behind the wheel of a van. The journey took five days, and covered 2,800 miles, travelling through six countries.

Jill and her co-driver Nicky Hegarty, a work colleague, left Liverpool as part of a convoy and drove via Eurotunnel to France. Then it was on to Belgium and the Netherlands. After an overnight stop they drove through Germany and finally to Krakow in Poland.

Jill (pictured right) with co-driver Nicky Hegarty

At their drop off point on the Poland/Ukraine border they were met by Bishop Gregory Komar, Auxiliary Bishop of the Ukrainian diocese of Sambir-Drohobych (*pictured right*). Then it was the long drive home.

Jill's trip was part of the archdiocese's '#liverpool4ukraine' appeal. More consignments of much needed medical supplies and aid are planned.

Jill is President Elect of SI Crosby. She said: "I volunteered to go on this trip because I wanted to do something direct and useful to help people in Ukraine who urgently need the supplies we're taking to them. I feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to go on this journey and hope that the generous donations from across the archdiocese to Bishop Gregory and the people of Ukraine will provide both practical support and comfort that they are not alone."



Jill with Bishop Gregory



Jill is pictured here with drivers, Bishop Gregory and student priests, in Ukraine. Jill is holding a traditional Ukrainian Easter cake, a gift from the bishop, which they brought back for the staff at the office to share.

Follow the link to read the full story on SI Crosby's website: [Ukraine trip April 2022](#)

SI Crosby members recently approved a donation of £1,000 to the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) to help Ukraine. The UK-based DEC brings together 15 leading aid charities to raise funds quickly and efficiently at times of crisis overseas.

Story by Jenny Stannistreet

A Report on the South Lancashire Regional Conference Held at the Radisson Blu in Liverpool on Saturday 14th May 2022

By Sandy Taylor of SI Crosby

The conference, entitled “Women Supporting Women - Together we can”, was two years in the planning by our President Dorcas. There were 8 months of committee meetings and 24 cups of tea/coffee, 62 delegates, 10 Stewards, 9 speakers & a choir made up our conference. On reflection of the day and when writing this report, I noticed that we covered the 5 P’s (almost as if we had planned it that way!)

People

We heard from Canon DR Rod Gardner how Josephine Butler was a woman ahead of her time trying to raise awareness of human trafficking in the 1900’s and I for one think that she would have made an excellent Soroptimist! Daphne Franks talked of how from the tragedy of her mother being coerced that she is changing the law on Predatory marriage!

Partnership

Dr Gillian Aston and members from SWACA talked about how working together and raising awareness of domestic violence and how working with multi-agencies strengthens the work they do.

Annette described her work involved with human trafficking, how agencies are looking to educate us on how to become more vigilant in observing what is around us and the signs to look out for, added to this - educating us on how we can assist.

Aimee & Angie from the Liverpool Hospital Trust (formerly “R” Charity) discussed the progress on the Soroptimist room for women who may have experienced domestic violence. The hope is that this room will provide a safe environment for women at a very fraught and difficult time. Four Clubs in our Region Bootle, Crosby, Liverpool & Southport have worked together on this, partnership at its best!

Planet

You may not have noticed but we tried very hard to recycle and reuse, borrowed lanyards and the bags containing delegate information were paper - recyclable!

Prosperity

Working with Lunt meadows is a green project that has developed over time and allows people to learn about the environment, share ideas and assist with wellbeing and mental health.

Peace

Abby described her personal journey to gaining peace and acceptance from family about the role of women who are facing inequality and cultural differences. PCC Emily Spurrel described how taking a gendered approach to gender-based violence against women and girls is a priority.

The day was brought to an uplifting end by the Mersey Voices Choir, followed by tea & scones - always a great way to end the day.

I would like the opportunity to thank President Dorcas for her faith in me as the Conference Chair. This conference could not have come about without the hard work and commitment of the committee members; Anne Grimes Chief Steward, Debra Curtis Registrar, Pat Williams Treasurer

Please do look to support the next Conference which will be in 2024