



### LEADING LADIES OF SI WIGAN

SI Wigan would like to recognise Dr. Ann Parr, Helen Ayles, Dr. Indu Gupta, Nickie Thomas, Penny Cook, Anne Smith, Jane Fennell and Reverend Pauline Makin. Our thanks to these ladies and their ongoing support, wisdom and friendship.



SI SOUTHPORT PAY TRIBUTE TO A MUCH-LOVED SISTER page 19

### SI WARRINGTON DELIVERING DIGNITY

You are rushed to hospital, it's an emergency admission, you have absolutely nothing with you and yet you are waiting in A&E, sometimes for hours. You need a minimum of personal items to help you through the wait, things that might only be provided once you are on a ward.

One of our members has recent experience of both a relative and a friend being admitted in such circumstances and came up with the idea of providing Warrington General Hospital's A&E Department with **Patient Hospital Dignity Bags**, which contain the following items:

- A small supply of tissues in a wipeable cover.
- A pen and paper for writing information/questions to share with either medical staff or visiting relatives.
- A small Toothbrush with tube of Toothpaste.
- A Denture pot with single denture tablet for storing teeth (could also be used for hearing aids/jewellery/loose change).
- A small pack of Baby wipes/ individual face cloth.
- A Comb.

Working with A&E staff, all these items were identified as being helpful during a stay in A&E care areas and following admission to a ward. These plastic zip-lock bags (approx. 8 x 7 in) also have space for the patient's name and provide immediate access to small but essential items that make things easier for a patient until they can have personal dignity products brought in.

SI Warrington sourced and assembled the items, and 100 Bags were provided to the A&E Department.



**ALL AT A COST OF LESS THAN £70.**

*Contributed by Jackie Alexander*

## Club News from around the Region

### SI St HELENS

At a recent meeting of Soroptimist International St Helens, local historian Stephen Wainwright presented the club with a cheque for £1,000 to be passed on to the Alzheimer's Society as part of past president Diane Charnock's charity.

In 2022 Stephen's sister Diane Charnock was elected the President of Soroptimist St Helens and her chosen charity, during her presidential year, was the Alzheimer's Society. The reason for this was that Diane and Stephen's mother Alice Wainwright had passed away in 1991 after developing early-onset Alzheimer's.

When Stephen published the second volume of his Hidden History of St Helens series last year, he promised to donate £1 from the proceeds of the first 1,000 copies that were sold to her chosen charity.

The book sold over 1,000 copies and Stephen's donation boosted the amount raised for the charity to £2000

Stephen was also able to show the members an advance copy of his new book 'The Hidden History of St Helens' Volume 3 which will be published on September 1st.

St Helens Soroptimists have given much support in the past 40 years to the St Helens Refuge, for survivors of domestic abuse. They were therefore interested to hear of the chapter in the forthcoming book about the difficulties brutalised wives experienced in obtaining separation orders from St Helens' courts in the early years of the 20th century.

*Contributed by Anne Jones*



## SI LIVERPOOL

### MEMBERSHIP MONTH - MAY 2023



We held our first publicity event to raise the profile of our organisation and as a membership drive at Dobbies, Speke Airport Road.

We tried to speak to as many people as we could and wore orange to highlight Violence Against Women and Girls. We even managed to raise funds for President Ann's Charity; The Women's Organisation and other charities.

A big thanks to members who came to support the event.

### ORANGE CAFE AT ALLERTON GOLD CLUB, LIVERPOOL

Our first Orange Cafe took place on the 25<sup>th</sup> of July with about 10 members.

Our orange tops and scarves did stand out and it was a brilliant opportunity to raise the profile of our club and Soroptimists in general.

Members chatted to other women about our Domestic Violence campaign and distributed leaflets and cards.



### SI Dublin Convention



We met up with Rosita from SI Toronto at the Conference. Past President Debra will visit our Friendship Club later this year but it is good to put names to faces in the meantime.

The friendship links between SI Toronto and SI Liverpool go back to the Second World War when the Toronto club sent parcels of much needed clothing for Liverpool Soroptimists to distribute amongst the homeless and displaced people in the city. Happily, those friendships still strengthen our work as we share new challenges facing women and girls today!

*Contributed by Dorcas Akeju, OBE*

## SI LIVERPOOL

### STRAWBERRY FIELDS FOREVER

We had a lovely visit to Strawberry Fields on the 8<sup>th</sup> August to present a cheque for £500 raised by SI Liverpool, as one of our chosen Charities for 2022/23.

We were hosted by Samaritans, Allister and Kath, who run the 'Steps to Work' programme for which we had specifically raised the funds.

Step to Work provides an incredible opportunity for young people in Liverpool with learning difficulties or other barriers to employment, to develop and achieve their goals.

Strawberry Fields is the training hub and offers a 12–18-month programme that combines education and work placements to ensure trainees are truly work ready. Allister took time to tell us about the journeys of some of the young people who had benefited from the scheme - then we all went into the Strawberry Fields café for coffee and cake!

The photo below left was taken at the newly erected bandstand....the pic with the saying, which you may struggle to see, gave us all a laugh, says...."No more sprouts, give peas a chance!"

The photo on the right is of the Ukrainian global peace monument, dedicated to bringing peace and hope to the people of Ukraine and everywhere. A lovely afternoon, enjoyed by all



*Contributed by Club President Ann Mercer*

## SI LIVERPOOL

### DONATION TO ALDER HEY CHILDREN HOSPITAL

Immediate Past President Lynne Cottrell, accompanied by club members Elaine Stump, Sue Woods and Debra Curtis attended Alder Hey Children's Hospital to present a cheque of £2,630.50 in aid of the Alder Hey Surgical Neo Natal Appeal. This was Lynne's presidential charity.

The group were given a tour of the hospital and learned about the incredible work undertaken at the hospital.



On a sunny day in August, club members set out on a guided tour of Princes park where 100 trees had been planted to celebrate SI Liverpool receiving the Planet Award and in anticipation of our upcoming Centenary in 2027.

The park is Grade 2 listed and was designed by Joseph Paxton (who later designed the Crystal Palace) and is situated in one of the most deprived wards in Liverpool. It is an important example of green haven in a city setting.



In true Soroptimist style, we completed our walk with a picnic lunch.

*Contributed by Elaine Stump*

### SI MANCHESTER and the SIGBI Day Of Action - Emmeline's Birthday Party

First came the advert in Pankhurst Museum Newsletter and on social media:

*Every year on the Sunday nearest to Emmeline's birthday (15th July), we host a party, and this year is no different! Join us for a FREE, FABULOUS & FUN celebration on Sunday 16th July here at the museum & garden. There will be music, poetry workshops, card making, fancy cakes (courtesy of the Soroptimists International), a glass of something sparkly and the chance to explore our small but perfectly formed museum (the home of the Suffragette movement). There'll also be games and Suffragette Selfie dressing up in the garden!*



*('Manchester' didn't get a mention but Soroptimists is spelt correctly!)*

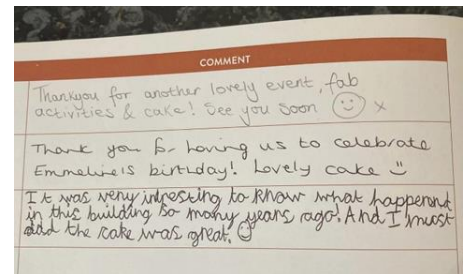
Then on the day:

President Sue and some of the members enjoyed helping out at the Pankhurst Centre at their celebration of Emmeline's Birthday Party.



We enjoyed serving the cakes we had baked and the fizz. A lovely occasion and it was nice to see the lovely comments in the visitor's book about the cakes.

Everyone enjoyed their visit and it was a pleasure to see so many people, particularly the children, so interested in the Suffragettes and the Pankhurst Family.



Susan, a regular Pankhurst Volunteer was on duty in the Parlour for the day.

and here we are helping out at Emmeline's Birthday Party in 2019!



## SI Crosby

Crosby Soroptimists have spent this summer in fun and service, with just a little fundraising as well. It's been a very busy few months!

At our June meeting we welcomed a new member, Angela McAdam. Angela has recruited her sister Julie to join us too. We welcome them both.

As usual several Crosby Soroptimists gave service at CHET Open Garden in June. A thousand tickets were sold in advance and even more visitors turned up on the day so it was a busy afternoon. Thank you to Jane Daly for organizing the rota.



In June, a small party visited the Empire Theatre to see 'Sister Act.' Later in the month we visited Shakespeare of the North to see 'Much Ado about Nothing' - more fun and friendship. Thanks go to Ann McCracken and Pat Mahony for organizing these two outings.



SI Crosby fielded two teams in the Hightown Club Bowls Quiz. One of these won the quiz and the other came third carrying off several bottles of wine as prizes - we won many of the raffle prizes too! It is fair to say that every single Crosby Soroptimist who attended came away from the evening laden with booty, having had lots of fun. Past President Sheila Chatterton certainly enjoyed her frankfurter.



Past President Sheila hosted a New Members' afternoon. 'Older' members answered lots of questions regarding Soroptimism in general and about the Crosby club in particular. Tea, coffee and lots of cake sustained the party throughout. Thanks to Jane Daly and Chris Chua Short for organising and to Sheila for opening her house to host.



As usual Crosby Soroptimists helped Sefton Women's and Children's Aid at their annual Strawberry Tea on 1 July. It was a very successful afternoon raising several hundred pounds for the charity. SWACA is one of our nominated charities. We never miss a chance to support them

At our July meeting we held a Reflection Event. This was very productive and well worthwhile. It was particularly interesting to hear the thoughts of our newer members.

*Contributed by Margaret Davidson*



In July we held our first Orange Café event at a local café on the 25<sup>th</sup> – a good chance for a natter and a great opportunity to promote the message “No to violence against Women”. As you can see from the photo there was lots of orange!

Sadly, due to the high costs involved, SI Crosby members felt unable to attend the Dublin Conference. A pity, but there we are!

On 1<sup>st</sup> August twenty-four of us gathered to partake of afternoon tea and to say goodbye to Past President Elspeth Cooper who has recently relocated to Deal. Elspeth, with her wonderful sense of humour and intellectual clarity, will be badly missed.



At our August Social evening we held a Swap Shop. Promoting sustainability is one of President Jill’s objectives this year, so we brought along our unwanted handbags, scarves, belts, jewellery and other accessories to the meeting and swapped them with each other for an appropriate charitable donation. Thus, we replenished our wardrobes at minimal ecological – or monetary – cost!



Our summer barbecue at Sheila Chatterton’s on the 20<sup>th</sup> August was yet another afternoon of fun and friendship enjoyed by members, their families and friends. Ping Pong Potty raised funds for Toilet Twinning.

Our 24<sup>th</sup> August there was our long-anticipated visit to linked member Debbie Oulton after months of planning by Jane Daly. Debbie and her husband Shaun relocated to Anglesey last year.



**Crosby Soroptimists hosted a Summer Social Bowls evening with other clubs from the South Lancashire Region.**

Members welcomed to the Hightown green were from Southport, Warrington and Wigan. With the emphasis on relaxation and good fellowship there was, nevertheless, the opportunity for novice bowlers to benefit from some basic coaching. Crosby member Sandy Taylor organised the event and said: “There was fun and lots of banter, topped off with a light supper in usual Soroptimist style. “We were delighted to host this as part of our Region’s bowls summer.”



*Reproduced from SI Crosby website with kind permission of Jenny S*



## SI WIDNES

### Our May Business Meeting

Our speaker was Diane Orme, Halton Borough Council Help & Child Safety Project Worker. Diane gave an interesting talk about her work with vulnerable families and the first aid course SI Widnes are supporting. The aim is to make people more aware of the dangers around the home and garden and to reduce the number of accidents and build confidence and knowledge for Parents, Grandparents and Carers of children. Millie's Trust was set up after the loss of a child through a choking incident at a nursery. Diane was presented with a cheque for £250.00 from SI Widnes. This will enable Diane to hold 5 sessions. It was interesting to learn that some of the Mums we have previously been supporting through our work with Lindsey and Pause would have the opportunity to attend a first aid training course.

We were also visited by Ian from Blood Bikes, who explained the work they do transporting blood to where it is needed and informed us that they are all volunteers. He promised to come again and give us fuller information.

It was Sheelagh's first meeting as president and she enrolled Tina as a new member.



Photos: Lily Woodstock presents a cheque to Diane Marjorie Blennerhassett receives certificate from Ian Tina becomes a member

### Out and About

Two lovely days, amidst all the rain, saw our little Soroptimiss, Amelia, in action again. On Tuesday she helped out at the litter pick at Sunny Bank along with Region President Denise, Lily, Steph, Yvonne and of course, not forgetting Rollo! A couple taking a walk round Sunny Bank thanked us for our efforts, which was nice.



Amelia, Steph, Yvonne and Hubbie John accompanied Alister, HBC ranger to see how the trees we planted 2 years ago are growing. They are doing remarkably well considering the unusual weather we have had; scorching temperatures last year and extreme rainfall this year. Alister said that we would be welcome to plant more trees ...and they would even provide the trees!

Contributed by Yvonne Gibbon

### St Helens 80th Anniversary lunch

Regional President Denise and her husband Derek together with Immediate past President Lily and myself attended the lunch. President Denise gave an excellent speech.

*Contributed by Eleanor King*



### Raising Money for Halton Haven



On Saturday 1st July we organised a craft stall at the Barnyards, Widnes, where an event was held to raise funds for Halton Haven Hospice. We had a quiet start but then the afternoon was busy with a live band, bar and food stalls. Altogether we raised £160.

*Contributed by President Sheelagh Dayus*

### Trip to York

On Thursday 20th July we set off early from the Masonic Hall Widnes on a coach trip to York. The event was well attended by the Soroptimists and on arrival in York we had brunch, followed by a very pleasant hour cruising along the River Ouse. The weather was mild and sunny and we were able to wander through the many individual shops in the narrow streets of York. A few purchases were made by some of the Ladies and we ended our day with tea and cakes.

On our return journey we held a raffle on the coach and raised £71 for charity.

A thoroughly enjoyable day. Special thanks to Carolyn, Denise and Eleanor for organising.



## SI Wigan

As life continues to get back to normal after the year of Zoom, now people can meet again, the Wigan club has continued to expand and make links with other groups within the Wigan area.

Membership has continued to grow, mainly in part to the hard work of our Club President, Angela Holmes, who has continued to work tirelessly for all our causes and certainly leads by example!

Whilst we continue to welcome new members we recognize and celebrate long and valued service. This year we were delighted to recognize long serving members with a presentation of flowers at our Charter Lunch with bouquets being delivered to those members who could not attend.



SI Wigan would like to recognize Dr. Ann Parr, Helen Ayles, Dr. Indu Gupta, Nickie Thomas, Penny Cook, Anne Smith, Jane Fennell and Reverend Pauline Makin. Our thanks to these ladies and their ongoing support, wisdom and friendship.

Two of our members, Angela Holmes and Anne Clarke, are delighted to become the Regional Membership Secretaries and are currently finalising the details for the New Members' lunch to be held at Statham Lodge, 17<sup>th</sup> September. Over 90 members from our region and beyond are due to attend.



SI Wigan continues to support and work with our local charities and earlier this year several of our Charities came to our club meeting to receive cheques. These included; Wigan and Leigh Hospice, Shoe Box Fairies and Beauty for Ashes. As you can see

the box is much larger than a shoebox but is very much needed. £15 buys one very much needed mobile phone. We provided Refuge with 15 mobile phones for women in crisis. We continue to support DIAS Domestic Violence Centre with supplies of refreshments for clients.





A new venture this year has been the Orange Café which takes place on the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month, giving members an opportunity to socialise, chat and bring along friends who may be interested in joining the club. This is proving very popular and we look forward to continuing this event. Orange, being a symbol of hope is worn by all members. You just can't see underlying orange – I'll say no more!

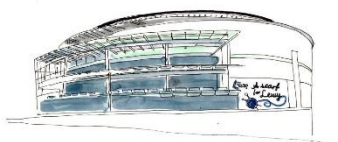
Another success we have had this year has been our involvement with a local business group called FUBHUB who are a group of Business women who meet regularly. Through this avenue, we secured some sponsorship from Costco towards our Annual Afternoon Tea event and we would recommend them to you. The picture shows Sue France presenting us with a prize for our raffle to be used at that event. What a great day that was, walking through Haigh Hall estate with like-minded women and their canine friends. Teddy, seen here, was by far the best behaved.



Tuesday 17th October 2023

Waterfront Hall Belfast

A Scarf For Lewy



01942 914 000

INFO@LEWYBODY.ORG

WWW.LEWYBODY.ORG



Another member from that group, Jacqui Cannon, is the CEO of the Lewey Body Society. Last year she was involved with wrapping a scarf around the Royal Albert Hall, but this year they are off to Belfast. If anyone would like to be involved, please see information on the website. If you can't be there then there is an option to make pompoms for this event! Jacqui has spoken to our group and is instrumental in our partnership work and introducing us to new networking opportunities. Angela (President) and Jacqui were school friends and are still on speaking terms!



And finally, we would like to thank our friends at SI Crosby for an enjoyable evening of bowling. Also, thanks go to Margaret Elmsley for her patience with two novice bowlers, it was a very enjoyable evening - thank you.

(Although this article has been written by Ann Clarke, Angela would like to point out that her navigational skills were second to none on this occasion as she did not attempt to drive down the coastal path!!)

Contributed by Ann Clarke

### S.I. Leigh & District

June saw us taking part in 'Loneliness Awareness Week. From 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>, we joined forces with The Marmalade Trust for their Connection Matters campaign and posted on our social media every day using their graphics. We also went onto the streets to highlight loneliness and the simple steps we can all take to make a difference to a stranger, neighbour or friend, handing out a leaflet that we produced to engage with people of all ages:

#### Will you be the difference?

- Make eye contact
- Smile at a stranger
- Say "Hello"
- Have a conversation
- Check on your friends
- Check on your neighbour



Loneliness has no age limit.  
A person can be lonely in a crowd

If you feel invisible  
reach out...  
You're not alone...



In May we took our club meeting on the road to Complete Kindness Café in Tyldesley and gave a small donation to support the community work being carried out there.

We heard about Dionne's journey to opening the café as a community hub and discovered that the café was going to close later in the month. However, plans are in place for their work to continue in other ways.

## S.I. Leigh & District



Soroptimists and guests enjoyed a fabulous night supporting Emma's Evening for SANDS, still birth and neonatal death charity. Entertainment was provided by Tony as Robbie and the Mesmerising Magician. We played 'Heads & Tails, and were lucky enough to win some of the fabulous raffle prizes. Thanks to Michelle Codling for making this such an enjoyable event 🍷🍷 and raising over £4000!

In July we launched an appeal for crafted orange flowers to enable us to make a display for The International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, 25<sup>th</sup> November ORANGE THE WORLD. We are hoping to expand on last years' event to invite more people to join us in raising awareness of this important issue.



We held another Orange Café in Leigh Spinners Mill and took the opportunity to visit the various occupants to garner their support.

Margaret Baker gave a presentation to the club of her (and Margaret Emsley's) exciting visit to Uganda. Accompanying S.I. President Maureen Maguire to see the work being undertaken by Rose Academies for the International Presidents Appeal 'Opening Doors to a Bright Future. They are pictured here inside the home of one of the girls' families.



On a rare sunny Sunday in **August** some intrepid members got up **VERY** early to take part in a car boot sale! We had raided our cupboards and they loaded their cars and a commendable amount of £310 was raised. Thank you to the early risers.



It would be remiss of us to not mention that Leigh Leopards won the Rugby League Challenge Cup for the first time since 1971! St Helens and Wigan have won it many times but the 52-year wait, made it that much more special!

So, this is a 'big deal' for Leigh as a town. Volunteers and staff from The Bridge were invited to join in the celebrations when the cup was paraded around the ground at the first home game after Wembley.

Leigh Soroptimists will be holding a raffle during September, of a fan favourite Edwin Ipape '9' shirt, signed by all the players, to raise funds for Beauty for Ashes Refuges.

*Contributed by Lynda Lilley*

## SI BOLTON

### Membership and service:

Our year started positively with two new members and the presentation of long service certificates to 4 members – totalling 130 years.

**In Bolton** a suggestion for a worthwhile project, often reveals that someone is already fulfilling the need so that collecting items and volunteering are the most effective ways of offering service.

### Volunteering

At our first meeting, in May, we acknowledged National Day of Volunteering on 8 May, and members shared some of their volunteering experience:

Susan has been a **Brownie leader** for 38 years, as Snowy Owl. She started by reading the Brownies’ Aims and Objects, which sounded remarkably like our Soroptimist Aims. The movement is still going strong with 89 million members worldwide, and half a million on the waiting list.

Alwyn then told us about the **Friends of Moss Bank Park**, where she is a volunteer working in the Walled Garden. She referred to the support from SI Bolton over the years. The bulbs planted last year for The Queen’s Jubilee are doing well and the Friends have enhanced our bed with three Queen Elizabeth rose bushes.

Sadly, the bulbs were past their best when Jane and Maureen visited with the TOTS Group later in the year. SI Bolton have a long relationship with **Toddlers On Tuesday / TOTS** at the Hope Centre.



The helpers encourage the mothers and pre-school children to get involved – they can make as much mess as they like – all paint is washable! The children enjoy story-time, linked to the theme for the week, and singing, which generally includes *Old Macdonald* and his amazing farm, which recently had a Green Man from the Moon. Jane excelled with a large moon rocket, which even the grandfathers present were struggling with. She had thoughtfully brought some suitable metallic-looking fruit trays.



One member currently volunteers once a week with **Urban Outreach** to check and sort the food donated at the end of each day by the supermarkets, local bakery etc. Members have helped to prepare and distribute Bolton Lunches during the long summer holiday, to local school children entitled to free school meals. This year around 70,000 packed lunches were prepared and distributed by volunteers.





**Backup North West at Bolton Food Festival:** Backup North West supports young people ages 16-25; changing lives and futures. It aims to prevent homelessness and increase independent living skills. One of the charity's means of raising money is by operating a mobile coffee and cake service.

Two members of SI Bolton volunteered to do a shift on the coffee van at the Bolton Food Festival over the August Bank Holiday weekend. The photo shows new member, Tracey on the left. The Food Festival is now the largest in the country. Despite the inclement weather for much of the weekend, it was well attended and enjoyed.



**Jigsaw – improving the world piece by piece.** We were challenged to knit 100 Trauma Teddies to commemorate 100 years of Soroptimism and SI Bolton set about the task and achieved the goal. Teddies were donated to ambulance crews, carers, GP surgeries, hospital departments, care homes and charities. We have carried on knitting the teddies and they are now going abroad.

One of our former members has returned to Seychelles, working with children and we arranged for her niece, Nadirah, who lives in Bolton to take a batch to the Seychelles.



It transpired that Nadirah is a volunteer for **Jigsaw**, working with families in the refugee camps in Lebanon, mainly on their Dignity project to help with period poverty. (Dignity bags cost £35 each).

A friend of SI Bolton, who suffered a stroke at the start of Covid but who can still knit, requested that we supply her with wool, which we were more than happy to do. Since then, we have lost count of the number of teddies and baby blankets we have passed to Nadirah, along with some small craft items for the children.

*Contributed by Maureen Barber*

## SI SOUTHPORT – SEPTEMBER 2023

In early July, with the long summer holiday approaching, one of our new members Jill Newsham came up with a novel and creative project to help local school children discover and develop their love of art.

With the current economic situation in the UK, many families are under significant financial pressure and would not have disposable income to spend on art materials. Jill, as a member of the Arts Society of Southport, suggested the creation of 'Art Packs' – collecting art materials, packaging them and passing them onto the charity Compassion Acts for distribution at local food banks.

SI Southport members were keen to help, so on a sunny day in July, members of the Arts Society and SI Southport members met in Baverstock House to create 50 Art Packs.



As an additional incentive for the children, the pack included a competition, where they could complete their artwork and send it in for judging. The completed packs were passed to Compassion Acts to distribute to families attending their food pantries.

This was a truly collaborative project, conceived and executed in just a couple of months, with a relatively low cost but (hopefully) a big impact for those children who were able to use the material to demonstrate their capabilities.

## Invitation to Speaker Evenings

SI Southport has continued to run hybrid meetings, giving members the choice of attending meetings in person or joining via Zoom. But this has also given us some great opportunities, for example, for the last two years, we have connected with our friendship links in Europe and Bangladesh via Zoom on Friendship Night.

Coming up, we have two speaker meetings:

On **October 16<sup>th</sup>** we have a speaker from NW Cancer Research during Cancer Awareness Month and on **November 6<sup>th</sup>** we welcome DC Andy Kevan from the Cheshire Police presenting on 'Cyber Fraud' and how to stay safe online.

We would welcome any members and friends from the region to join us in person or via Zoom for these meetings. More details will follow, but please contact the club on [siclubsouthport@gmail.com](mailto:siclubsouthport@gmail.com) if you are interested in attending either or both.

## SI SOUTHPORT

In July, we received the devastating news of the sudden and untimely passing of our wonderful member and amazing friend, Jocelyn Glanvill.

Joss joined Soroptimist International in 2007 and, despite her busy professional career as a dental surgeon, she very quickly contributed to all the activities of the club, using her many artistic, organisational and leadership skills.

She was Club President in 2014/15 and made many friends in other local and national Clubs. Her craft work was renowned and her generosity for Soroptimist causes knew no bounds. The Programme Action committee was particularly close to her heart and she was Chairman for several years. During that time, she organised many interesting and enjoyable functions, raising much needed funds for many good causes. She introduced the club to the Don McMath School in the Gambia, where we supported – and continue to support - a number of girls through their senior education.

And who can forget one particular fund-raising event, an American themed barbeque held on the 4th of July, where Joss appeared, magnificently dressed as the Statue of Liberty in all her glory!



Joss and her husband Peter moved to Exeter a couple of years ago, so that they could be nearer their growing family, but she remained a member of our club and rarely missed a meeting via Zoom. We were delighted they returned to Southport in April this year to join us for the inauguration of President Agnes Ng.

Joss' passing came as an enormous shock to the family, as well as to all her friends. Her funeral was held in Exeter in August and President Agnes and fellow member Heather Shulver attended with their husbands. Beata Kowalska was invited to give the address and she delivered a very moving tribute to Joss. Around 10 members and friends came together in our club room in Baverstock House to view the simultaneous webcast and to share memories of a friend and colleague.

Joss will be missed beyond words. She was a positive vibrant lady, generous, compassionate and caring and always striving to make things better for those less fortunate. We send our heartfelt condolences to Peter, Joss' daughters Alexis and Sian and to all the family. We share the loss and miss her dreadfully – but we are grateful that we had the honour and privilege of knowing her, working with her and having her as a friend.

Contributed by Ghislaine Fletcher



## SI BOOTLE & DISTRICT

On human trafficking awareness day, dressed in green we took the opportunity to spread the word and reconnect with partners in the New Strand in Bootle. Armed with information and leaflets we visited “Strand By Me” and are here pictured with Joe Boyd, Co-ordinator.

We had very interesting discussions on “Who we Are and What we Do” with the promise to forward any information on to other partner agencies. He was extremely interested in the DVC project and requested further information to share.



Whilst having lunch we lost no time in chatting to ladies in the cafe. Spreading the word of Soroptimism, the work we do, providing membership information and how to contact their nearest club/s.



Two members attended the Dublin Convention. The convention centre is known locally as “The Dyson” and, as the picture shows, it’s very apt. We found the venue extremely “user friendly” in particular for those with mobility problems. Everything was very well thought out. It was an excellent occasion, with many inspirational speakers including Renata Dawn speaking on “Women Peace and Cyber security.”



It was good to meet up with our Friendship Links to make plans for the future, while making new friends within the new federation of Africa. The occasion of the Gala Dinner had everyone buzzing especially during the Irish entertainment later in the evening. Making memories to last.

As a club we continue our support, through” Lending With Care” of two projects/ The “Tuscany 1101 Group” and ‘Mawuene Women’s Collective” both women’s projects to enhance the lives of their families.

Through bin twinning we continue to support a community led project in India collecting household rubbish and selling the recycled plastics to provide an income for their families.

*Contributed by Caroline Holmes*