



South Lancashire Leader

Women inspiring action
transforming lives



16 DAYS OF ACTION: BEYOND SILENCE

SI Liverpool Join the Liverpool Signing Choir in support of Human Rights for Women and Girls
See more on page 2

Also in this edition ...



SI Southport International night success - see page 5 for more!



SI Swallows bring solidarity and strength through self defence - see page 10 for more!



SI Wigan hold Pink Cafe to raise awareness of Breast Cancer - see page 9 for more!



SI Manchester form partnership with Ashton on Mersey's under-12 team - see page 8 for more!

PRESIDENT SUE'S WELCOME



It's good to be back! having the opportunity to meet friends old and new.

After my first quarter in office, I am grateful to and humbled by our members of the South Lancashire Region, I believe that we will soon be back to a full complement of Officers, all will be revealed on Saturday 28th February....

I've enjoyed four months of Food, Fun and Friendship: SI Liverpool's International Lunch with the 'Signing Choir' and SI Stockport's Fun & Friendship Lunch hearing about life behind the scenes with Ken Dodd. Also, two Charter Lunches, SI Leigh & District's 79th and SI Liverpool's 99th.

Region Conference preparations are going well; all Speakers are confirmed. I'm getting really excited about it now, just over 10 weeks to go! Have you booked yet? **The Early Bird price of £70 is now available until 31st March!**

Sue



Regional Conference
Saturday 16th May 2026

W.W.W.SOROPTIMISTS?



FRIDAY NIGHT 15th May
FRIENDSHIP SUPPER £30
Fun and Friendship Soroptimist style
CONFERENCE DAY RATE
Including Lunch £90
EARLY BIRD £70

Staying overnight?
Special rates are available for
conference delegates, please
see the booking form for prices
and booking information.

Click here for the conference booking form

<https://sigbi.org/south-lancashire/files/2025/11/SI-SI-R-2026-Conference-Booking-Form.pdf>

Be inspired by this amazing line-up

- Horizon Computer Scandal - Kay Linnell & Barbara Jeremiah
- Diane Oxberry Trust - Charlotte Badescu
- Inspired Lives - Making the Pieces Fit
- Act4Africa - She Leads
- Lifestyle & Storytelling - Alison McMath, Photographer
- Chair Pilates - Jaz Suida, Founder of Therapy First



EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Welcome to 2026!

The year began with more adventure than expected for me, including a very sporty Christmas and New Year spent watching the Chicago Bulls and the Green Bay Packers. The holiday was made even more memorable by an unplanned two-day delay in a very cold Copenhagen. It was a lively start to what already feels like a year full of momentum.

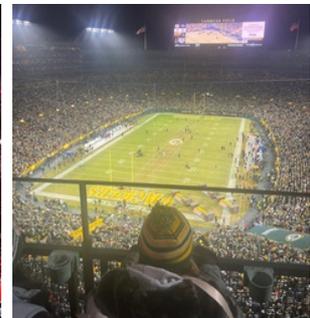
Across our region, that same energy has been reflected in the work you've all been doing. The 16 Days of Action once again demonstrated our shared commitment to raising awareness of violence against women and girls, and the continued progress through Lend with Care shows the real impact we can make together. I was also delighted to attend the Widnes Bingo evening, raising funds for their Tuk Tuk and and the Charter dinners at Liverpool and Leigh & District, each one a reminder of the dedication and community spirit that drives our work forward. With International Women's Day approaching, there's a growing sense of possibility about what we can achieve in the months ahead.

A quick reminder that the **early-bird rate** for our regional conference, **£70**, has been extended until the end of March. Booking your place now ensures you're part of the conversations shaping the year to come - what are you waiting for?

Nicola



Editor: Nicola Parkinson
Club: SI St. Helens



SI LIVERPOOL



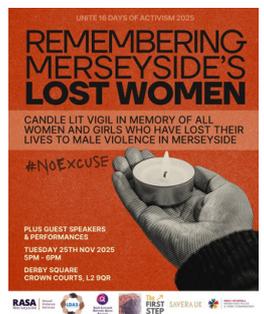
“ BEYOND SILENCE!”

Raising awareness of Domestic Violence in the BAME community

Members of the Violence and Conflict Resolution group partnered with women from the Granby Street area to raise awareness of domestic violence; what forms it takes, how to get help and support, while sharing experience over a cup of coffee. The afternoon was a great success and much appreciated by all who attended!

A candle-lighting ceremony in honour of the work of Soroptimists around the world and in celebration our support for Human Rights, particularly for women and girls. This year it was provided by the Liverpool Signing Choir, led by Catherine Hegarty. Guests were invited to join in the signing (and singing) with our guest of honour, the Lord Mayor, Cllt Barbara Murray gamely led the way with President Pat!

This year, as partners of First Step Project, which supports women escaping from domestic abuse, some members were able to join in a vigil of remembrance, organised by First Step on the evening of 25th November on Derby Square. This very moving vigil pays tribute to all the women and girls on Merseyside, who have been murdered.



16 Days of Action



SI ST HELENS

We launched our 16 Days of Action with a vibrant coffee morning at Chain Lane Community Centre, a place that has supported us so generously over the years. The event gave us a wonderful chance to shine a light on the campaign while also introducing more people to our club and the wider work of Soroptimist International. Our display boards sparked plenty of conversation, helping visitors learn more about the projects we're passionate about. Thanks to everyone who joined us, we raised nearly £400, a fantastic and heartening start to our activities.



SI SOUTHPORT



On 25th November, the first of the UN's global 16 days of Activism, we joined our friends from the Inner Wheel Club at the Atkinson in Southport for a lovely collaborative event to 'Orange the World'. We 'oranged' a small corner of the venue as a starter!



IMPACT

COLLECTIVELY WE HAVE ...

131	Loans provided
345	Entrepreneurs helped
113	Jobs created
£3,452	Lent
1,003	Family members helped
1,467	People helped

LEND WITH CARE

Thanks to

- South Lancashire Region
- Stockport
- Crosby
- Manchester
- St Helens

Soroptimist clubs for providing their information



16 May 2026

SI South Lancashire Conference
Novotel Manchester West

29-31 October 2026

CARDIFF
SIGBI Conference

BENEVOLENT FUND

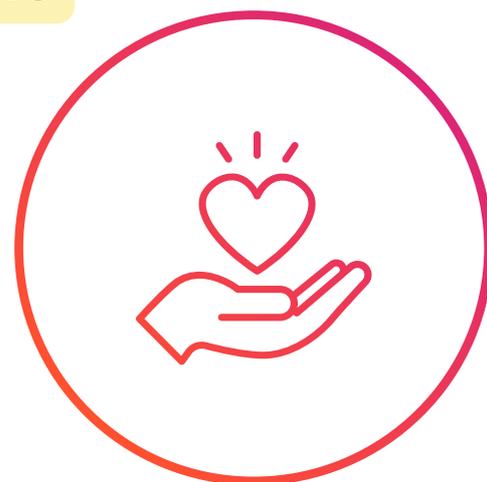
THE BENEVOLENT FUND IS YOURS!

DO YOU KNOW ANYONE IN YOUR CLUB WHO MAY BENEFIT FROM OUR SMALL FUND?

ARE YOU IN NEED?

Contact in confidence...

- Dorcas Akeju OBE (Benevolent Fund Trustee): dorcasakeju@aol.com or call 07952058641
- Ann Dawson (Chair): dawsonann3@gmail.com
- Myra Penn (Secretary): myra.penn@yahoo.co.uk
- Venessa Billing (Treasurer): billing2109@gmail.com



SI LIVERPOOL

THE LAST ROLL OF THE DICE DRAMA!



Eight teams pitted their wits in October when they wrestled with another enjoyable quiz set by Anne, on the theme of all things that are "50 Years old in 2025". "Golden" questions on rounds titled 'Post-It Notes', 'Little House on the Prairie' and 'Space Mountain' kept teams on their toes. This year, a new twist at the end of the quiz added to the uncertainty of the eventual winner and created an exciting end to the evening. Teams could choose to play three dice, with either points added for even numbers or deducted for odd points! Above are the photos of the eventual winners!

However, the real winners of the event were our charities! The quiz and raffle raised almost £500! Thanks to everyone who supported it!

HEART HEALTH EDUCATION FOR MERSEYSIDE'S DEAF COMMUNITY

We have expanded our partnership with Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital to promote a Heart Health event for Merseyside Society for Deaf People. This community have some of the people most marginalised from health education in the city. SI Liverpool sponsored two of the four interpreters on the day, with members of MSDP receiving a one to one consultation, after a forty minute presentation from staff of Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital. The deaf community were very appreciative of the event and have asked for another next year!!



HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY ANNE!



Happy birthday wishes and flowers went from club to member Anne Pagendam in November. Anne, a former Headmistress of Holly Lodge Girls School, joined SI Liverpool when the Garston and Speke club closed in 2006. Anne was an accomplished bowler and, as a member of Calderfield Bowling Club, helped to coach club members in Crown Green bowling for competitions against other clubs in South Lancashire, leading to being regional winners over several seasons. We send our very best wishes as she celebrates her birthday milestone!

INTERNATIONAL LUNCH 2025

Our 16 Days of Activism closed on 10th December, marking International Human Rights Day. The club 's formal start to the occasion is followed by a Christmas dinner and some light hearted entertainment. This year it was provided by the Liverpool Signing Choir.



JINGLE AND MINGLE

Our last social get together of the year was hosted by Rosemary. In her home, sparkling with Christmas lights and with a table full of delicious food, members and friends began the wind down for the Christmas break ... but not before we raised over £200 for our charities! Thank you Rosemary for such a warm welcome!

SI SOUTHPORT

2025 OVER AND OUT

There was considerable activity in SI Southport at the end of 2025, with some festive social events, as well as our major fundraiser. These have involved brilliant leadership and collaboration of many members of the club – and have boosted our coffers!

As has been the tradition for many

years, we schedule a Christmas event in November for those who like start planning early for the festive season. The 2025 Christmas Fair was superbly organised by Heather Shulver and Doreen Roberts with assistance from many members of the Club. As well as our popular 'home-made produce' stall, brimming over with delicious cakes, biscuits and preserves prepared by our members, we also had stalls of pashminas, Christmas crafts, jigsaws and games, as well as a bottle tombola and a hamper raffle. This year we had an additional stall run by a friend of the Club, Heather Dixon, who has been raising funds for Moldova. Our young visitors were especially welcome at the 'Children's Corner', where we had a gift advent calendar, a lucky dip and some very popular 'Jelly Babies', made by Miriam McCann. Refreshments of hot drinks and mince pies were in good supply, thanks to our catering team. As in the last few years, we had a delightful performance by the Southport Atkinson Wellbeing Choir, who created a happy festive atmosphere.

We were delighted to welcome many friends and visitors to the event and this proved to be one of our most successful Christmas functions, with over £1200 raised for local charities. Many many thanks to the SI Southport members for all the hard work and great contribution.

INTERNATIONAL NIGHT SUCCESS!



In honour of President Lisette, our social team, led by Heather Shulver, featured Mauritius as the theme of SI Southport's International Night.

We were delighted to welcome as our guest, Carol Hill, President of the Inner Wheel of Southport, to this wonderful evening. Heather and the team prepared a delicious chicken casserole and vegetable curry, together with some delightful sweet treats. To tax our brains, she had prepared a quiz about this beautiful African island.

Many thanks to Heather for her brilliant organisation, to her team for their culinary and creative skills and to everyone who attended. The proceeds from the evening were donated to the [Soroptimist International Foundation](#), which provides funding for projects that aim to Educate, Empower and Enable the lives of women and girls around the world.



CHEESE, WINE AND 2026



We started the year with a wonderfully relaxed Cheese & Wine party, organised by Rosemary Moore and the programmes team. We shared an evening of food and fellowship – and also taxed our brains with a ubiquitous quiz! As one of our members said, we can't believe we knew so little about cheese!

We're now in planning mode for 2 events. In conjunction with SI Crosby and SI Liverpool, we're working on a Women's Wellness Event in March. Then, in April, in collaboration with Southport Lions, we're organising our fundraising Race Night for President Lisette's project on Endometriosis – watch out for more information!