**It is a great privilege to begin my year as President of Soroptimist International of Stockport and District. I have a great team working with me this year and I welcome them all.**

**Our strap line for 2018/19 will be SHAPED BY OUR PAST – WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE**

**This is a milestone year for us as our emphasis will be on acknowledging and celebrating 80 years of service by our members past and present in the Stockport area. At our soup and sandwich lunch on 3 May we hope to make a start on working through our past minute books to begin to paint a picture of our 80 year history.**

**We are a small club with big ambitions and we will continue to try to draw in help from outside to achieve those ambitions by enlisting help from our new supporters club -our “80 for our 80th” This group is open to anyone who supports our aims or our projects and would like to be kept informed about what we are doing but is not in a position to become a member.**

**Project work will remain at the heart of what we do.**

**We are an international organisation and when I first became a Soroptimist it was through our overseas work that we seemed to be able to make the most difference. Whilst this remains crucial our concern now is that there is great need close to home hence our work on period poverty, the sewing of syringe driver bags for NHS patients and our ongoing work with Stockport Without Abuse, Wellspring, Stockport Talking Newspaper and the Greater Manchester Police Video Unit. Our international work will not be forgotten as we look to raise enough money on 3 May to twin our first toilet and we continue to support our Federation in the Meru garden project as it comes to an end this year.**

**As a club we have tried to keep our programme manageable and centred on club meetings to which we will invite speakers relevant to our project work during the year. Our fundraising events will bring us together to enjoy food and wine with our friends. Managing workload is one of our key challenges as we all have busy lives to lead. The streamlining of how we do things will continue to ensure our efforts are targeted in the most effective way.**

**New members have been welcomed during 2017/18 and we now have more people showing interest in what we do than for many years. We hope to welcome more visitors and new members this year.**

**This is an exciting time for us as a Club and I look forward to working with everyone in the coming twelve months**