



Soroptimist International Port Talbot is a group of friends who meet to coordinate the empowerment, enablement and education of women locally, nationally and internationally, the emphasis is on improving the lives of women and girls.

We believe we are a very active club and enjoy working together on a range of activities and issues

.....here are some of them to give you a “flavour of SI Port Talbot”.

International Women's Day :



Annually, on International Women's Day, SI Port Talbot arrange a Breakfast and this year 2025 we celebrated International Women's Day with an inspirational speaker Pam Kelly, whose career went from being a student teacher, lollypop lady, community policewomen to the policewoman who had attained the office of Chief Constable of Gwent Constabulary, a rare achievement in a world usually dominated by men.

The breakfast was supported by the Deputy Mayoress of Neath Port Talbot and her guest, At the end of the morning our speaker was presented with a cheque of £300 for her chosen charity which was

Children Victims of Crime.

Fashion Show at The Orangery, Margam Park :



SI Port Talbot hold the Fashion Show, Lunch and Craft Fayre annually at the Orangery, Margam Park and it is well known locally and well supported enabling funds to be raised for our chosen charity, which this year was Neath Port Talbot Stroke Group, and also affords the opportunity to share a day with friends and fellow Soroptimists.

The “SI Port Talbot Fashion Show” is an integral part of the Port Talbot Summer and the women of Port Talbot really look forward to it every year, hence we do not have to advertise the event – this year it was attended by 245 women.



SI Port Talbot were pleased to be supported with the day's fashions presented by Miss Jones of Neath and our sponsor Dr Organic of Swansea for their generous raffle and table gifts

Hearts of the Valley Show :



The Hearts of the Valley Show is a local annual agricultural fair, highlighting work of farmers, local artisans & is a shop window for local charities & voluntary organisations ; we had a bottle stall and Club members donated the bottles....we sold tickets for this tombola stall.

Having a presence at this show gives us the opportunity to raise awareness of our projects. It also gives us the opportunity of raising funds for our Annual Charity Fund in a fun and enjoyable manner.

It was agreed that this year the funds raised at the event would be given to support the Shoebox Appeal , which was a gift of £300.

<https://blythswood.org/shoeboxappeal/>

TFSR CYMRU :



SI Port Talbot continue to support Tools for Self Reliance Cymru for 16 years+ . Hundreds of used tools and sewing machines have been collected by club members and taken to workshops and storage units in Crickhowell for repair and refurbishment prior to transport to Tanzania. TFSR Cymru said they are most grateful for our continued support .

<https://www.tfsrcymru.org.uk/>

WORKING WITH OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY :

As well as raising money for local charities which provide support for women and girls, and families where appropriate, we provide a service across a range of activities in the town:

Port Talbot has a population of approximately 38,000 with one in four people being defined as living on, or below, the poverty level. In the upper Afan Valley that ratio would be higher. As a club, we are very much aware of this and support, both financially and through service, those organisations that work with families, the homeless (young and adult) to help improve their situation.

We also work with other charities, such as Thrive, Dewis, Rotary, Bethel Trust, so that we can support women and girls and, where necessary, support men and boys.

Organisations worked with include :

THRIVE :



We have an on-going project to support Thrive , a shelter for women fleeing from domestic abuse... on arrival at the refuge the ladies are given a Welcome Box of essential personal hygiene products – imagine arriving in a place, scared for your life, having nothing familiar around you and being given a box of products which some may see as luxury due to their abuse in their own home, this is such a difference for these ladies and may help make a difference to that one women's wellbeing and start of her road to recovery

Dewis:



Dewis is a registered charity and limited company with a track record of over 30 years delivery of services to support young people – together with partners, supporters and fundraisers, they help young people to live safely and independently.

At Dewis the mission is to alleviate homelessness by providing specialist support to young people, especially those with complex needs, who are homeless or at risk of being homeless, aiming to improve their current circumstances and build resilience for the future.

Bethel Trust :



SI Port Talbot are regular supporters and funders of Bethel Trust , a registered Charity, Bethel Trust exists to alleviate poverty and help our community in practical ways, working with people of all backgrounds without discrimination which aligns with the programme focus of Soroptimism.



Baby Basics at St Marys Church :



Club members continue to support St. Mary's Church baby bank ...and they encourage friends and family to get involved. Club has several talented "knitters & crocheters" who have been busy crafting babywear and blankets ; also donated baby clothes and baby items are also collected and delivered by a club member.



Other Projects include support to :

RNLI
Blood Cancer UK
NPT Stroke Group
Stamps for Kicks Count
Wales Air Ambulance

Port Talbot Food Bank
Royal Osteoporosis Society
NSPCC
Citadel Project (Housing Justice)
Ysgol Cwm Brombil Christmas Child Appeal

Also, Members support other Regional Clubs, and our Friendship Club Cannock, in the collections of books, bras etc as well as buying tickets to events where possible

Ukraine Support :



A number of our SI Port Talbot members act as support friends to the Ukrainian community, meeting them regularly to enhance their language skills, raise spirits and if they put out a request for help we do our best to respond.

We have arranged a weekly support group meeting at a local library to offer support and advice which three of our members co-ordinate and in addition to this regular coffee morning a special event was arranged to acknowledge the Ukrainian Independence Day

WORKING WITH LOCAL SCHOOLS :

STEM Cymru Support



The work done by the STEM Charity fits perfectly with helping girls fulfil their potential and it fits with our vision and is helping educate, enable and empower girls into a "men's world". They run " Girls into STEM" a programme of events which aims to encourage female pupils to take an active interest into STEM (science, technology, engineering & technology) subjects prior to their GCSE subject choices

One of the Trustees of the Charity, Robert, visited club and gave a talk to members and handed out literature about the STEM organisation and answered club members questions about the programme . It was very informative and encouraging to hear of the uptake by girls locally to take an active interest in STEM subjects. We gifted £500 to STEM Cymru from Charity Funds . We will keep in touch and hopefully take the project further



Thailand - Student Visit Support



In continuation of the initiative started during the previous year, and part of SIPT's ongoing relationship with the Afan College, we have provided financial support to four of their girl students to participate in an organised group visit to Chaing Mai, Thailand so enabling their participation because of economic pressure they could not go without such funding ; the Upper Afan Valley where they reside is one of the most economically deprived areas of the UK The trip provided an invaluable International experience Empowering, Enabling and Educating four young ladies from deprived backgrounds, two of whom classified as having Additional Learning Needs .

This trip was to be particularly invaluable to those students as it is not somewhere they have ever thought achievable. Four girls have been immensely benefitted. SIPT helped to Educate, Enable and Empower these four girls, and if SIPT had not assisted with funding the trip to Thailand, the girls might have opted out of academics in order to generate income for their families. The experience broadened horizons as well as enhancing by self- education, and it also helped educate local girls with English and other skills.

Wellbeing Dog School Visiting :



Well-being dog Lottie the cavachon (and her Soroptimist owner !) visits a local Primary School library weekly and works with ALN pupils and interacts with pupils following a reading intervention programme .The aim is to help educate each pupil to improve their reading skills while the relationship between the dog and pupil enhances the learning through comfort and security.

Lottie's owner Club member Jean, herself a retired head teacher, visits the school library weekly with Lottie and works with ALN pupils and looks after pupils for two hours each Friday .

SIGBI Activity and Involvement :

16 Days of Activism Orange the World :



An Orange Cafe was set up in the Costa Coffee Shop in Port Talbot town centre. Tables were reserved and SI Port Talbot club members dressed in orange. Posters were made and put up in the cafe to promote 'Orange the World' 16 Days of Activism' from 25th November - 10th December to support Stopping Violence Against Women and Girls. Orange badges were purchased and given to people in the cafe.

Those attending included: Two representatives from our local MP's office, The Mayor, our local Welsh Assembly Member, a local celebrity Mr Beany and members of the public

UN Days :

SI Port Talbot members reflect on and raise awareness of the UN Special Days in many ways including posting on social media and meeting together on occasions such as for an evening of self-care on July 24th to promote awareness, education and personal responsibility in health maintenance across all ages and communities.... the date 24th July translates into 24/7, symbolising that self care should be a continuous practice, occurring 24 hours a day and 7 days a week.



To celebrate the UN International Day of Hope SI Port Talbot arranged a Circle of Hope of our Members, commencing with the lighting of a Candle of Peace.

Lobbying :

Lobbying has included Drink Spiking, Cervical Cancer, Big Plastic Count

Toilet Twinning

Environmental Issues :

World Water Day:



We arranged a social morning to acknowledge “UN World Water Day 2025 : Glacier Preservation” and to raise awareness of the critical importance of fresh water and the global issues such as water scarcity, pollution and inadequate access.... We enjoyed a “Water Tasting morning” and our speaker was Dr Elizabeth Morgan who gave a thought provoking talk on Water and Climate Change

Aim of the Month :

To raise awareness of environmental issues and how our personal choices and actions affect the environment we devised an initiative to engage members in considering our choices , activities and action - it is called Aim of the Month.

On a monthly basis we remind ALL members by an email of sustainability “goals for the month” which we all then 'sign up' for and do on an ongoing basis.

Lend with Care:



We started donating to Lend with Care some years ago. As loans are repaid, we reinvest this money to help women to improve their standard of living, thereby enhancing their family and children's and community's way of life.

To date we have made **12 loans** we have helped **168** lady entrepreneurs to date, **402** family members helped, **11** jobs created and **581** people helped.

Togo – 1; Malawi – 3 ; Cambodia – 1;Rwanda – 1; Zambia – 2; Vietnam – 3 ; Palestinian Territories - 1

Making 12 in all.

Friendship and Fun :



We have social evenings, speaker evenings and interesting trips which help the wellbeing of members....Members who are unable to attend meetings are encouraged and supported to contribute in whatever way they are able.

..... and ready for Christmas 2025 Joint Presidents Helen & Janner's Dr Organic Gift Bags for Club Members to be distributed at our Christmas Dinner Evening :-



November 2025