**Wigan Soroptimists seek a girl or young woman to be their Young Achiever 2018**

During its 70th Anniversary Year, Soroptimist International of Wigan discussed commemorating this milestone with an ongoing project. The idea of making an annual award to a local young woman who set a good example to our community was suggested. The notion of a ‘young achiever award’ emerged and it has now been running for seven years. The first 5 years were sponsored by Mrs. Wendy Stuart, who was an active member of the Club when the scheme was launched.

We have taken a broad view of achievement to encompass academic attainment, service to the community, act of heroism, triumph over adversity, young carer, entrepreneurial skill, sporting prowess, and success in the fields of art or culture.

Our first winner, Hannah was chosen on account of her service to the community, working with a local charity. The second was Jenny, who was entered on account of her academic success. Her excellent exam results were the best ever achieved by a pupil at her school, making her a worthy winner. The third was Georgina, whose triumph over adversity impressed us. She coped with the death of a parent and a personal health scare but still attained exceptional exam. results which have led to her being offered university placements to study medicine. The next was Jessica who overcame problems from childhood onwards to enable her take a course in animal care which has given her the choice of taking her studies further or becoming an apprentice veterinary nurse. The next holder was Jen, whose sporting prowess impressed us. She is a footballer, training to be a football referee and encouraging more girls to play the game and adopt a healthy lifestyle.. In the same year another young woman , Emma, had an academic record which deserved recognition. We awarded her a 'Runner --Up' Certificate. Last year we again felt two young women deserved recognition for their service to the community.. Both were called Olivia. Our winner had worked with vulnerable individuals and families; our runner up had raised thousands of pounds for local charities by using her considerable vocal talent.

Anyone can make a nomination..

The age range for nominees is 14– 21 years and they must come from the catchment area of our Club, which is essentially the Wigan Borough excluding the Leigh, Tyldesley and Atherton districts

The nomination form can be obtained on request from yaaward@ymail.com or from any member of SI Wigan and it will be available on our Club's website http://sigbi.org/wigan/

Forms, when completed and signed, should be returned by post to: Young Achiever Award, 10 Edinburgh Drive, Wigan, WN5 9ET.

The deadline for applications is Monday 22rd October 2018

The winner will have her name engraved on a trophy. She will receive an engraved miniature trophy together with a gift card valued at £100.00. The award is planned to be presented by the Mayor of Wigan in the Mayor's Parlour in early December 2018