

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL WINCHESTER AND DISTRICT 1962 - 2022



Winchester in 1962



Soroptimist International Winchester and District was born at a time with fewer cars, limited technology and more use of cash.

It was still an ancient city full of historic buildings, the Cathedral and a thriving High Street.

SI Winchester is the Daughter club of SI Southampton and Granddaughter of SI Bournemouth



Miss Agnes Wayment
Head Teacher – Founder President

Sept.	9th	Executive Meeting
	11th	Business Meeting
	26th	Business Meeting
Oct.	9th	Dr. M. Marzulli, Esq., County Education Officer, 'A visit to Hong Kong'.
	15th	Executive Meeting
	24th	Business Meeting
Nov.	12th	Executive Meeting
	13th	The Bishop of Southampton — 'A Journey to the Holy Land'.
	22th	Business Meeting
Dec.	16th	Executive Meeting
	18th	International Christmas Party
Jan.	9th	Business Meeting
	14th	Executive Meeting
	22nd	R. James, Esq., County Drama Adviser
Feb.	11th	Executive Meeting
	14th	Business Meeting
	21th	Musical Delights — Miss Alban (at Dismant School)
Mar.	7th	Club Dinner — Guest Speaker: C. A. Joyce, M.B.E., M.A., Public Relations Officer, The Rainier Foundation, Guildhall, 7.0 for 7.30 p.m.
	16th	Executive Meeting
	23rd	or 24th
		Literature (to be arranged)
April	9th	Business Meeting
	14th	Executive Meeting
	22nd	Annual General Meeting
May		Executive Meeting
	14th	Business Meeting
	27th	Dr. Van Langenburg and Visit to St. Paul's Hospital
June		Executive Meeting
	11th	Business Meeting
	24th	F. J. Bryan Long, Esq., County Welfare Officer incorporating visit to Morston House
July		Executive Meeting
	9th	Business Meeting
	22nd	Evening Ride and Picnic

ALL MEETINGS AT THE MINSTER CAFE
(by kind invitation of Mrs. V. Coleman)
unless otherwise stated

Early programme



23 members met in the
Minster cafe, 9 Minster
Street, as guests of the
owner, founder member
Vee Coleman-Rowthorne



First year members – short
skirts, stoles and set hair

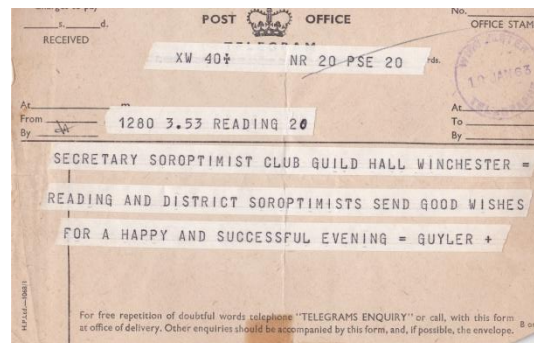
The Charter Dinner



Impressive fashions of the time



Inaugural dinner layout at the Guildhall. Imagine having dinners of this size now!



Congratulatory telegrams from SI Chelmsford and SI Reading

PAST PRESIDENTS

Miss A Wayment Founder President 1962-1963

1963-1964 Miss J Alban
 1964-1965 Mrs KM Howes
 1965-1966 Mrs V Dewar
 1966-1967 Miss MS Smith
 1968-1969 Miss I Lambson
 1969-1970 Miss E Cottrill
 1970-1971 Mrs J Meadows
 1971-1972 Mrs P Keates
 1972-1973 Miss P Barratt
 1973-1975 Mrs V Coleman-Rowthorn
 1975-1976 Mrs N Dumbell
 1976-1977 Miss M Skellern
 1978-1979 Mrs J Beven
 1979-1980 Miss M Gordon-Fraser
 1981-1981 Miss EM MacDonald
 1982 Jan-Apr Miss EM Gordon-Fraser
 1982-1983 Miss NB Collins
 1983-1984 Mrs A Fisher
 1984-1985 Mrs T Hammond
 1985-1986 Miss J Drake
 1986-1987 Miss J Beven
 1987-1988 Mrs G Steel
 1988-1989 Mrs L Ashman
 1989-1990 Dr R Baker

1990-1991 Mrs M Collie
 1991-1992 Miss M Linton
 1992-1993 Miss C Bryant
 1993-1994 Miss M Clare
 1994-1995 Miss J Drake
 1995-1996 Mrs A Fisher
 1996-1997 Mrs K Fielder
 1997-1998 Dr J Harding
 1998-1999 Mrs D Smart
 1999-2000 Mrs J Coveyduck
 2000-2001 Mrs M Collie
 2001-2002 Dr J Harding
 2002-2003 Miss M Clare
 2003-2004 Miss C Bryant
 2004-2005 Mrs J Gilbertson
 2005-2006 Dr R Baker
 2006-2007 Mrs M Lovell
 2007-2008 Apr-Nov Mrs M Collie
 2007-2009 Mrs J Coveyduck
 2009-2010 Mrs K Fielder
 2010-2011 Mrs C Forse
 2011 -2012 Laraine Marriott
 2012 – 2013 Gill Steel
 2013 – 2014 Liz Batten

2014-2015 Julie Blackwell
 2015 -2016 Pat Abbott/Jenny Stratford
 2016-2017 Pat Abbott/Jenny Stratford
 2017-2018 Area groups
 2018-2019 Area groups
 2020-2021 Area groups
 2021-2022 project groups
 2022-2023 project groups



21st birthday – 1983



Abbey House Sensory Garden 1975 - 2001

Formerly called the Garden for the blind . It was funded by SI Winchester in 1975. Then in 1999/2000 the club gave a large contribution to the garden's renaming and replanting.

Members of SI Winchester buried a time Capsule in the Garden of the Senses, Abbey Gardens in 2001. The capsule contains information about the history of the club and its current projects.



For the Millenium a large sculpted water feature was added. This was unveiled by Peter White, the BB disability broadcaster. The women's wing of Winchester Prison produced Braille guides for the garden.

The final stage of the project was a joint venture with HCC and Winchester CC. Sculptor David Furber was commissioned to produce a 'time and water' feature for the central area of the garden to mark the new millennium. A large monolith of Portland stone with a sundial face and water exiting its gnomon has been installed.

Mince pie Marathon 1988



It was mince pie mayhem in the City's Gas showroom as teams from SI Winchester, fire, police and ambulance services, prison officers, the local Mayor and BBC's Sally Taylor tried to out-cook their opponents.

Each team had one hour to bake as many as possible.

The Prison Officers cooked up a victory with a magnificent total of 822 mince pies.

The 12 hour marathon raised an amazing £6,900 for Parkinson's Disease Society, as it was then known, by selling 3,277 pies to the very generous passing shoppers of Winchester.

Guide Dogs for the Blind - 1991



SI Winchester President
Marie Collie presents a
cheque for £1000 to Guide
dogs for the Blind

28th birthday - 1991



Another impressive demonstration of baking skills for the 28th birthday celebration

40th anniversary - 2002



Founder Member, Vee Coleman Rowthorn together with Sylvia Stops who did a parachute jump in her 90th year for charity.

Sylvia had us in fits when said she enjoyed being strapped to the young man...



Not actually Sylvia...

Visit to Friendship Link Charleroi Belgium



An impressive engineering look to the visit to Charleroi

Fundraising at Holly Fair, St Swithuns Winchester



The club organised this annual event from 2004 to 2011.

Held prior to Christmas and included local arts and crafts stallholders.

Wonders for Women fundraiser



Winchester's George Kremer, Stylist, took part in the event, seen here with member Carol Forse.



International Women's Day was the ideal date for our Charity Fashion Fair, held at the Holiday Inn.

As well as the fashion show and hair styling demonstration there were many stalls offering every pamper item a woman could wish for. Once again the generosity of Winchester raised £2000 for Winchester & District Young Carers.

WOW bags



WoW stands for Wonders of Waste. A women's co-operative in the Philippines produces these environmentally brilliant bags from discarded drinks cartons. We support them by selling their colourful bags at craft and gift fairs. The money we return to the co-operative significantly improves the quality of life for this group of women and children.

As many of us have owned and used these bags for years we can vouch for their durability and practicality.

Diamonds are forever...

Entranced by a slide show of dazzling diamonds through the ages, SI Winchester and guests enjoyed a talk given by then member Dr Beatriz Chadour-Sampson. The event certainly attracted more guests than usual.

Beatriz is an internationally renowned independent scholar, archivist and curator and the author of many books on the history of jewellery. She is Consultant Curator of the V&A's acclaimed William and Judy Bollinger Jewellery Gallery. She is also curator of the Alice and Leo Koch collection and curator of the Collection of Religious Jewellery and Objects, Dreyfus-Best, Switzerland.

While admitting that diamonds may be a girl's best friend, we also discussed the serious ethical issues associated with them both now and back in history.



A not so Straight-Laced fundraiser...



Twelve brave Winchester members became models for our very successful Vital Statistics calendar which raised £1800 for charity. Copies of the calendar changed hands at four times face value on ebay! Members were keen to know more about the garments they had modelled and John Elder obliged, giving us an entertaining talk on their history based on the Ivy Leaf Collection which he inherited from an aunt.



Video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YeOuy7CmpiY>



**Soroptimist
International**
Winchester & District
Baby Beaufort

We raised funds to provide a realcare baby girl for The Henry Beaufort School, a mixed comprehensive school in Winchester for students 11 to 16. They called her Phoebe.

Realcare babies need looking after just like a real baby because they need feeding, rocking, burping and nappy changing and need their heads supported. But, unlike real babies, our Beaufort baby records how well it has been looked after or if it has been neglected or roughly handled.



Like any responsible Godparents SI Winchester likes to keep an eye on Phoebe. Members Anna Elder and Carol Forse visited the school to see how Baby Beaufort is settling in. They discovered she is regarded not just as an educational tool but as a member of the school and has a place in many lessons, cooing or crying in her seat.

The results are given in a Care Report which is presented to each student with explanations from teacher Anne Hill as to how he or she could improve on any failings. This has proven to be very successful, with students eager to try again.

The Smiling School in Kisumu, Kenya (Friendship Link) Early Learning Centre in Kenya



This is a joint project with our sister club in Kisumu. SI Winchester provided the money and they have planned and overseen the work. This consisted of building two new classrooms and renovating the existing one, supplying a huge water tank for collecting clean, safe rainwater, new desks, books and stationery.

In recognition of our contribution, the parents and staff asked us to rename the school. After much thought, we ruled out using Soroptimist or Winchester – tongue twisters for young children – and came up with *The Smiling School* using our new dynamic S logo.

Kisumu continues...

By building a new kitchen and ovens to feed the pupils



We learned that their school kitchen stoves were inefficient and climate polluting. They submitted a budget for us for improved facilities. In order to increase efficient heat transfer and reduce harmful emissions, SI Winchester supported the construction of a corrugated iron sheet school kitchen housing a pair of improved, energy saving, biomass stoves on a cemented floor.

This reduces the carbon footprint of The Smiling School community and addresses three key environmental and health issues: indoor air pollution deforestation, and women's and children's health.



The user-friendly improved stoves operate roughly twice as efficiently, and substantially more cleanly, than the open fire cooking methods. Improved stoves are insulated and lifted off the floor. Improved stoves make cooking quicker, safer and cleaner.



Kisumu latest... Visit by FL co-ordinator Jennifer Lauté

Jennifer and her husband Upkar made a personal visit to Kisumu on their recent family trip to Kenya. They were met by five members of SI Kisumu and treated to a whole day of hospitality.

First The Smiling School to meet the pupils and teachers and then planted two avocado trees in the school grounds. Afterwards a full breakfast was laid on for them and cake was shared with the children.

The Soroptimists drove them to the tourist spot which marks the Equator, to see the unusual clockwise and anti-clockwise spinning of the water through the plughole.

Then a drive through Kisumu (a clean, green city without the usual traffic chaos) to a park with a museum. There was model Luo village with typical round mud huts, where a native dance troupe had been arranged.

Following that a drive through a salubrious area of Kisumu to a lakeside restaurant. They had booked tables on an open-sided veranda on stilts above Lake Victoria.

The gift (for the Winchester Soroptimists) is a carved black rhino and the overall impression was of friendliness and kindness of our hosts in Kisumu. They went to a lot of trouble and expense, and took days off work, to entertain us in spite of relatively short notice from us.



Federation President 2010

We were very proud that one of our members, Liz Batten, became President of our Federation SI Great Britain & Ireland (SIGBI) in 2010. President Liz writes:

‘It was a real privilege for me to be elected as Federation President for 2010-11 and to have the honour of leading the organisation and its 9,000 members throughout 27 countries. During my Presidency we reached the end of our 4 year international Project Sierra, Hope and Homes. I was delighted to announce that we had reached our target of £1,000,000’.

Liz left Winchester and went on to form the new SI Salisbury club in 2019, which is Winchester’s daughter club. The charter was in Salisbury at a dinner in the Cathedral.



International Women's Day Debate 2010

The Debate

This house believes in the right of the individual to choose assisted suicide

Soroptimists don't shy away from sensitive and controversial issues. We organised this debate to scrutinise aspects of assisted suicide. The event, held at the University of Winchester, was chaired with charm and authority by Debbie Thrower. We had four excellent speakers, each of whom spoke with passion and conviction.

For the motion: Sandra Gidley, then MP for Romsey and Shadow Health Minister, and Professor Paul Badham, Patron of Dignity in Dying.
Opposing the motion: Dr Tony Calland, Chair of the BMA Ethics Committee and Revd George Pitcher, Daily Telegraph Religion Editor.



**Result:
For 66% Against 28% Abstain 6%**



