

Soroptimist International of Great Britain & Ireland

SOUTH LANCASHIRE

LEADER

Editor - Norma Parry *SI Oldham*

Volume 2
Issue 7
March 2009



A Message from the President



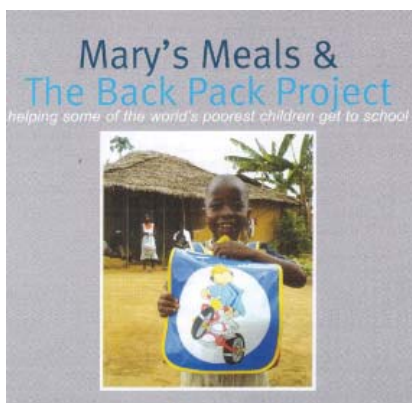
I KNOW that we are now over two months into 2009 and with all the cold weather we have been experiencing in recent weeks, that sunny Barbados has now slipped into the mists of time, but I wish you all a Happy, Healthy and Successful year in everything you do.

Because we are Soroptimists we are always happy to take on a challenge and the future of our organisation could be just that. Whilst there is a lot to be learnt and nurtured from the past, "You cannot do today's job with yesterday's methods and be in business tomorrow". These are the words of Nelson Jackson, who in 1903 accepted the challenge to drive across the U.S. despite owning no car, having limited driving experience and no maps. He was the first man to drive coast to coast across the U.S.A. in an amazing modern contraption called the automobile. Sometimes being successful means letting go of the past and embracing what the future has to offer. Many Soroptimists all over our Federation are of the same mind set as Nelson Jackson was.

The members of South Lancashire are ready to put great effort into the "Can Do Campaign". Our Councillor, Dorothy Lee has reported to the region that challenging targets have been set for this campaign in 2009 which covers Membership, PR and Programme. Do not forget the "Rose Bowl Award" for the "Can Do Campaign" and the Programme Action Award. Let us all embrace this challenge and do as Dorothy asks, - Please help make South Lancashire the best region.

Bernadette Platt

Mary's Meals



A PROJECT supported by SI Manchester is Mary's Meals For further details please contact members of SI Manchester.

This is a simple way of helping children from poor families in countries like Malawi and Liberia to get to school. Very often these families cannot afford to buy basic things like pencils

and copy books, or even suitable clothes for their children to wear to school so their children miss out on school and an education. This is a tragic situation because studies show that an education is the best way a chronically poor child can escape from poverty in later life.

The Back Pack Project helps solve this problem by providing poor children with the things they need in order to attend school. This can be achieved by people in the UK filling up an old school bag/back pack with some everyday school things. These bags will then be distributed to children who really need them.

The organisation has been working with poor communities around the world since 1992. Much of this work is about helping children gain an education through the Mary's Meals school-feeding campaign. The Back Pack Project is proving to be another effective way of helping children get to school.

104,500 backpacks have already been delivered to children in Malawi, Uganda and Liberia. The boy in the picture is from Liberia. Years of war meant many people missed out on school. Now there is a peace and families are desperate for their children to gain an education. Few can afford even basic school materials. The Back Pack Project offers a simple, practical way of helping them.

Second hand items are good! They do not need to be specially bought. As long as things are in good condition, that is fine.

Items required are:
Back Pack/School Bag
Pencils & Sharpeners
Pencil Case
6" Rules
Shorts
Tee Shirt
Small Ball, eg Tennis Ball
Toothpaste

Spoons
Exercise Books or Notepads
Pens & Crayons
Erasers
Towel
Skirt/Dress
Flip Flops/Sandals
Soap,
Toothbrush

OUT AND ABOUT IN THE REGION . . .

WIDNES

Members of SI Widnes, joined forces to plant Crocus Bulbs at Sunnybank in memory of Dereen Clare who passed away in September 2008. The club felt it was a fitting tribute to Dereen who was a regular member of the clean up team.



*We went to plant some Crocus Bulbs
At Sunnybank on a sunny day,
Remembering our friend, Dereen,
Who, with us, used to clear away
The litter from that pleasant place . . .
The task Dereen did gladly share,
Noticing the birds and butterflies
And plants that grow and prosper there.*

*Now that she walks with us no more,
Let blue and yellow crocuses
Give joy, as she herself gave joy
And her bright friendliness express.*

Wendy Ross-Barker



ST HELENS

Members of SI St Helens held a "Spectacular" Collection of unwanted reading glasses and prescription sunglasses. Special thanks must go to Doreen Williams, a new member of the club, who offered coverage by way of an appeal through the local newspaper the *St Helens Star*.

Many many people took the spectacles into the Star Offices and over 600 pairs were collected which will be sent to "Sightsavers - Vision Aid" who use specialist people who restore them and redirect them to third World Countries enabling the Specs to be recycled and used effectively by people with seeing difficulties.

Pictured along President Alison Tickle, is Julie Lavin a *Star* employee, Doreen Williams and some of the 600 pairs of specs handed over to Paul Parkinson a member from Ashton Rotary club.

Ashton in Makerfield with Haydock Rotary have been collecting spectacles for 5 years and have sent approx 15000 pairs away. They have made this into an ongoing project. A box will continue to be available at the *Star* office.



ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE

In September 2007, an article was printed in the South Lancashire Leader, which told of an initiative to provide 3,500 items of underwear for the children of FOMO (Friends of Mulanje Orphans).

The project was the brainchild of members from SI Ashton-under-Lyne and the mammoth project which exceeded all expectations was helped by other clubs in the region, along with donations received from individuals and businesses who read about the project in the local newspapers.



Fomo are now helping well over 5,000 children in 13 centres in Mulanje, Malawi and this little boy is based at Nansomba Centre Mulanje in Malawi. The underwear from SI has been distributed across the other 12 centres and from reports that have reached the club from the Woodworths, the children are highly delighted.

CONGRATULATIONS

to Sharman Birtles, a member of SI Ashton under Lyne, who has been appointed Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester.

SOUTHPORT

At the start of her year President Margaret Davies gave each of the club members a five pound note with the instruction to use their talents to make it 'grow'. As you can imagine all sorts of ideas have flowed from the inventive minds of the Southport ladies such as a 'Festive Floral Fizz Day', a pre Barbados cheese and wine evening, an afternoon tea with entertainment to making cakes to sell to work colleagues and more besides and the club are pleased to report that over £1,440 has been raised so far. An International Night was held on 8th December, which this year of course, had the island of Barbados as its theme.



Many members wore typical Barbadian dress and we enjoyed a delicious meal of Caribbean fare. Money raised on that evening together with a collection taken on Friendship Night meant that over £500 was sent to the International President's December 10th Appeal.

The Christmas Celebration was held at the Scarisbrick Hotel on 16th December. An excellent meal was followed by a performance by a flight of magical 'fairies'. The latter, a group of our members dressed as beautiful fairies just a little past their prime, and performed a musical number 'Nobody loves a fairy when they're forty' to the obvious delight of our audience!

... WITH NEWS FROM THE CLUBS

WILMSLOW

Wilmslow and District celebrated their 40th Anniversary Charter Dinner, on 14th November 2008, where a commemorative cake was cut by Founder Member Mrs Margaret Charnley along with President Wendy.

An article "Four Decades of Dedication", outlining the work of Wilmslow Soroptimists, followed in the local press on 4th December.

The Grand Finale to the 40th Anniversary Celebrations takes place on 24th February when the Mayor of Macclesfield will officiate at the planting of a "Ruby Oak" in the Macclesfield Borough Council's newly prepared ground, which is specifically for the planting of commemorative trees, in The Carrs, Wilmslow. The Wilmslow Soroptimist tree will be the first.



OLDHAM

As part of raising awareness of Fairtrade Fortnight, members of S I Oldham hosted a Stall selling a variety of goods from the Fairtrade Foundation in conjunction with Thorp Primary School, and Trinity Methodist Church, who along with SI are partners in Fairtrade.

The event took place at a coffee morning which was held at Trinity Methodist Church on Thursday 27th February and successfully raised over £110.



STOCKPORT

Members of Stockport club were invited to decorate Christmas Trees at Cheadle Hulme Methodist Church. The theme was Carols and the club depicted "The Holly and The Ivy". With the idea of continuing the ongoing recycling project, instead of making hats with carrier bags, they made Christmas decorations which made super pom poms.

Sweet and biscuit wrappers were also used, for all sorts of danglers, as were bottle tops, old wrapping paper, left-overs from other jobs - such as beads, sequins, shiny thread etc. The crown was an inverted lamp shade found at a Charity shop with sweep paper 'jewels'.

The two trees were a great success, and of course not only publicised Soroptimists but the environment campaign. All has been carefully packed away and there are high hopes that they will be used next year in a prominent venue.



LEIGH

This year saw the introduction of a new category in the Leigh Township Awards - The Group Award. The first group to be awarded this in recognition of their work to support the community of Leigh and surrounding areas was Soroptimist International of Leigh & District.

Leigh Soroptimists have been actively working in the community for 62 years, with many local projects such as, supporting W.A.V.E. (women against violence), The Stonehouse Contact Centre, Parkinsons Society, Fundraising for the local Hospice, Bulb planting, acting as Townhall Guides during Heritage Week and many more significant projects.

Attached pictures show President Phyllis Bayley and some members with the trophy and bulb planting at Howe Bridge this year.



EDITORIAL & PR NEWS

A very big thank you to all the clubs in the Region for all your support in compiling this newsletter. Without the fascinating articles that you send I would not be able to produce this publication. I have received many comments of appreciation from various people regarding the newsletter, so in turn my appreciation goes to the Press Officers of the clubs in South Lancashire for sending me all the information and photographs.

I am delighted to announce that SI Leigh and District have now launched their own website, which has already been linked to the SIGBI site along with Ashton-under-Lyne, Crosby, Oldham and Wigan. Three other clubs, namely Manchester, St. Helens and Ramsbottom, currently have their sites under construction which will mean that South Lancashire has a fifty per cent presence on the web. This is excellent news for the Can-Do-Campaign and I am very much looking forward to hearing from other Press Officers/Webmistresses who would like to know more about giving their own club a presence on the web.

I am also very encouraged to hear that many clubs are having articles printed in the local press. Congratulations to all of you for the efforts you are making in promoting SI. I hope that you are finding that the newsletters from Pat Black, Federation Director of PR & Marketing useful. These have been sent out with the December & February Federation Mailings. If anyone has not received them, I have electronic versions which can be sent via email.

I would be very interested to hear of any way in which you may be promoting your club, whether in the local media, via the web or in conjunction with another organisation in your area. New ideas are always welcome.

Norma Parry

JOINT REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The Joint Regional Conference will take place on 8 – 10th May, at Castle Green Hotel, in Kendal and it is still not too late to register.

A very wide and varied programme has been planned with some keynote speakers on issues very close to the aims and objectives of Soroptimist International whilst at the same time a wealth of fun and friendship to be experienced.



Topics for discussion will include:

Women in Medicine

Miles of Smiles

Fair Trade Shopping

Forced Marriages

There will also be Programme Action Presentations from both North West England and Isle of Man and South Lancashire.

To register or for further details please contact:

Anne Quainoo

34 Newmarket Avenue, Bowerham, Lancaster, LA1 4NQ

Tel: 01524 35877

LADIES DAY

President Bernadette will be hosting a Ladies Day for South Lancashire Region, on Sunday 28th June at Formby Hall Golf Club.

The day will commence at 11.00 am with “Retail Therapy” – with suppliers of Pashminas, Jewellery, Perfumery, Handbags, Clothes and Beauty Products.

This will be followed by lunch at 1.00 pm after which there will be a Fashion Parade.

The cost for the day will be £25 – **book early to avoid disappointment.**

BENEVOLENT FUND

We are rapidly approaching the time when clubs will be holding their Annual General Meetings and subscriptions will become due for the coming year.

Benevolent Fund representative, for South Lancashire, Sheila Guthrie would like to once again remind all members of the Region, who are currently paying Income Tax, to please sign a Gift Aid Form.

There is no additional cost to any individual, but a percentage of each member's capitation fees can then be sent to the Benevolent Fund, which of course is a registered charity, supporting Soroptimists in need.

For any further details please contact:

Sheila Guthrie

40 Columbine Close

Hough Green

Widnes WA8 4TR

Tel: 0151 510 2658

Sheila would be happy to answer any queries that members may have on the completion of Gift Aid Forms or give details of how to make a donation to the Benevolent Fund should anyone wish to do so.

NEW MEMBERS

CROSBY

It's just like when you're waiting for a bus – three turn up at once!

President Pat Williams recently welcomed three new Soroptimists into SI Crosby. Val, Sandy and Louise have qualifications and experience in nursing, research, lecturing, charity organisation and social work with young people. So the trio will add considerably to the club's pool of expertise.



President Gill had a very pleasant task to perform once again in the February meeting.



She welcomed six new members to the club. With four more to be welcomed in March this brings the total new members to be welcomed to the club to 14 in the last 12 months. President Gill said 'it is always a great to see a new member join the club but to have so many in such a short time is

LIVERPOOL

fabulous. I am really appreciative of all the hard work of the membership committee without them this would not have been possible.'

President Gill and her Mum are no longer the only mother and daughter combination in the club as two of the new members are also mother and daughter.

CONGRATULATIONS

to all clubs in the Region who have increased their membership — **a message to all of you** — do not forget to submit your written report on membership and the efforts you have made in the Can do Campaign, to President Bernadette, by 30th April.