

Soroptimist International of Great Britain & Ireland

SOUTH LANCASHIRE LEADER

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President's Message



I hope everyone has had a good break and you have not been too badly affected by the cold spell. How quickly the time flies! We are already going into the third month of the year!

There have been various items of news in the media recently which is of special importance to Soroptimists.

The Copenhagen summit was a disappointment but we should not give up hope. Women are more

adversely affected by climate change and we must keep the pressure on.

We also hear about the Millennium goal to end poverty by 2015 but not much has been achieved considering the fact that a decade has passed since the goals were set up. Remember – 70% of the poorest in the world are women. The rich countries pledged 0.5% of their GDP to combat poverty but very few have kept this pledge. I am pleased to say that the United Kingdom has given more than what was pledged. It is yet another time for reflection about what women have achieved over the years with the celebration of International Women's Day on the 8th of March.

I hope that you all have a successful and fulfilling 2010. With best wishes to you all.

Sriya

AWARD WINNING SOROPTIMIST

SI Liverpool President Maureen Walsh, a presenter with BBC Radio Merseyside, has been officially acknowledged by Warner Music as the first DJ in Britain to ever play a track of Michael Buble on radio in the UK and has been awarded a framed CD of Buble with a plaque saying -



Presented to Maureen Walsh
to recognise sales in the United Kingdom
of more than 600,000 copies
of the 143 RECORDS/REPRISE ALBUM
'Crazy Love' 2009

Maureen admits that she was rather naughty, as one of her listeners sent her a copy of a CD called 'Totally Buble' (which was only available in Canada and USA at the time). The listener had a friend who lived in Canada and had sent over a copy of a CD raving about this new young singer.

Maureen listened and loved it - and played it quite often on her programme with listeners making enquiries about this new singer. Consequently when the self-titled first album came into this country Maureen played it as soon as she could, and often.

Maureen explains that when she interviewed Michael Buble she showed him the CD, the copy of the copy! He said he wouldn't sign it for her as he'd been kidded out of money by the man who put it out - but he certainly thanked her for all the airplay she'd given him.

JOINT REGIONAL CONFERENCE

South Lancashire and North West England and Isle of Man

Friday 14th - Sunday 16th May 2010

DeVere Daresbury Park Hotel, Warrington

Theme: Victory over Adversity

OUT AND ABOUT IN THE REGION . . .

CROSBY

Crosby's Soroptimists have had news of the safe arrival of the container-full of goods, sent to Honduras by St. Joseph's Hospice Association (Jospice).

The consignment of medical, educational, household and other items was sent to Jospice's hospice in San Pedro Sula



Everything, including the cash to fund the container and its shipping costs, was provided thanks to the generosity of people in Merseyside. The Soroptimists of Crosby had sorted, listed, packed and labelled all the goods ready for transport.

At the hospice local people, who turned out in huge numbers, unloaded the container. All goods were put straight under cover, ready for sorting and allocation at the hospice and in the community.

Medical equipment and sewing machines, for example, have been put straight to work; and the children now have a range of outdoor toys to play on.

A life-size statue of St Joseph, carefully padded and wrapped by the Soroptimists, arrived with minimal damage. It has been placed in the chapel.

News of the container's arrival spread far and wide. The Bishop of San Pedro Sula made a special visit to the hospice. Another caller was Father Antonio Quetglas, the priest who originally highlighted to Jospice the need for a hospice in the area.

AIDS has become the leading cause of death among women of childbearing age in Honduras, and many of the patients in San Pedro Sula are in need of care as a result of HIV-related illness.

Cath O'Leary, the nurse-manager, knows that the container-full of goods from England will have a far-reaching and hugely positive effect on the work that she and her staff carry out.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE

President Jill's Charity, the Young Oncology Unit at Christies was given a big boost as JD Williams in Manchester have donated returned and sample bras to THE BIG BRA APPEAL currently running in Ashton.

Jill's daughter Kaye has a rare form of cancer and Jill wanted to raise money in her Year for the Y.O.U. which treated her during her teenage years. Kaye works at JD Williams and they were very happy to become partners in the Project

This uplifting appeal has been well supported in its aim to raise money by recycling a quarter of a ton of bras, which stops the bras going into landfill and polluting the environment.

BCR Global Textiles will pay £1 per kilo for the bras; they recycle, those too worn by breaking them down to components. New bras are sent to developing countries where they are highly prized.

The Appeal will finish with the BIG PUSH (up) on Ashton Market on 6 March when the Club is having a stall to raise awareness of Christie Young Oncology Unit, Ashton Club and International Women's Day.



The photograph shows Kaye Dewsnap (centre) Jill Dewsnap (right) with PAC members and some of the donated bras.

Details of the project and links to BCR Textiles are on the Club website www.soroptimistashton.co.uk

* * *

SI Ashton collected 1350 bras at their stall on the Market Ground on 6 March, held in conjunction with International Women's Day. The counting is on-going and the final total, with all proceeds going to Y.O.U. at Christies (President Jill's Charity) will be known soon.

LEIGH

Soroptimist International of Leigh and District celebrated 63 years of Soroptimism in Leigh, when they held their Annual Charter Dinner at Leigh Sports Village on 20th February, 2010.

Their guest speaker was Jo Darbyshire, a Deputy Lieutenant of Lancashire, (and also a Past President of S.I.G.B.I.) and the toast to Soroptimist International was proposed by Stephen Timms President of Rotary Club of Leigh.



The photograph shows President Marlene with Mayor and Mayoress of Wigan Councillor Mark Aldred and his wife. President of S.I. Bolton Alwyn Heaton, President of South Lancashire Region Sryia Kulupana, President of Leigh Rotary Stephen Timms and his wife Ann, Jo Darbyshire Guest Speaker, President Marlene and her husband Derek, President of S.I.Wigan Kate Fussell.

S.I. Leigh are currently supporting one of the projects run by Leigh Rotary Club. The Ashanti Project in Ghana, is funding the installation of some much needed toilets, which is a project very close to the heart of all Soroptimists especially those in South Lancashire

Soroptimists of Leigh and District have also supported St. Dunstons, with funds which were raised at their very successful Houghton Weavers Concert in November last year.

A date for your diary

UK PAC Study Day
will be held on
Saturday 12th July
at Reading University

... WITH NEWS FROM THE CLUBS

MANCHESTER



S.I. Manchester participated in the Festival of Christmas Trees which raised £25,000 for the Francis House Children's Hospice. The tree was garlanded in blue and yellow with a theme of "A Global Voice for Women". It was a marvellous opportunity to support the hospice and publicise Soroptimism.

WIDNES

SI Widnes member, Paula Fox had a dream come true with a visit to Japan in 2001, a visit which she thought would never happen again, however in 2009 an invitation came from a friend at Nara University to give a lecture on Food Technology.



The first visit took place in the Spring during cherry blossom time which was so beautiful that Paula thought that it could not be beaten but autumn was equally beautiful. Thanks to a government initiative to preserve traditions, it is still a common sight to see delicate doll like kimono-clad ladies wearing silks to match the season.

Sadly it was not possible to meet up with sister Soroptimists due to a hectic work schedule spending 5 days in the ancient capital of Nara and 3 days in the vibrant city of Kyoto and then a bullet train ride for 3 days in Tokyo, leaving memories to treasure for a lifetime.

BOOTLE

SI Bootle had their Christmas do (this January) at Richlance Restaurant, Stanley Road, Bootle. Richlance is staffed by Hugh Baird College's catering students and Bootle club are keen to offer them the opportunity to practice their Silver Service skills. President Joanne Gladders of SI Bootle is seen here congratulating the students on a job well done and for providing the club members with a wonderful meal and lovely evening.



Suzy Stubbs and Chris Thursfield of SI Bootle helped President Joanne Gladders to collect £130 for Joanne's chosen charity of The Red Cross by cooking a wonderful lunch for her guests. We had such a relaxed and fun day that we had requests for membership; however, it wasn't long before SI Bootle's competitive streak emerged with an exciting game of ten-pin bowling on the Wii and a quiz all about the event's theme of 'Friendship' – well it was St. Valentine's Day!



OLDHAM



In February our club held a faith supper and sold goods in aid of "Help for Heroes" which raised the sum of £145. Later in March members will be hosting a "Cake Bake Stall" at one of the weekly coffee mornings held at Trinity Methodist Church which will also be in aid of "Help for Heroes" and the club have also started collecting items for shoeboxes to send out to our troops in Afghanistan.

In celebration of Fairtrade Fortnight, on Thursday 4th March SI Oldham hosted its annual stall of Fairtrade goods in conjunction with Thorp Primary School, which is also a Fairtrade School, once again at Trinity Methodist Church. Children dressed in traditional African costume

came to give their support and the sum of £135 was raised, together with a prospective new member!



STOCKPORT

At the time of going to press planning is well underway for an Open Evening at Stockport Art Gallery timed to coincide with International Women's Day, which will include entertainment, networking and an international buffet.

There will hopefully be speakers from Heilbronn and Beziers, along with Regional President Sriya, after which an informal

question and answer session will take place. before eating our way round the world.

A great deal of help has been received from International Liaison Officer Sue Shore and also from Jo Ward from Stockport Art Galley, both of whom have contacts in many areas. Everything is now in place to make this a very successful evening.

ORMSKIRK

On December 7th 2009 members of SI Ormskirk hosted a party to celebrate the Installation of Dr. Sriya Kulupana, member of the Ormskirk Club, as President of the South Lancashire Region.

Soroptimists from all parts of the Region attended and enjoyed a superb buffet and musical entertainment.

Ormskirk President Eunice Woof warmly congratulated Sriya and on behalf of all members, presented her with a bouquet of flowers. Eunice then wished her a successful year in office.

Immediate Past President Bernadette Platt wished Sriya as happy a year in office as she had enjoyed.



St HELENS

SI St Helens are thrilled to have three new members since April, which now gives us a membership of 43.

St Helens club members have raised £277 by knitting poppies from a pattern from SI Ashton. Members knitted with enthusiasm and we could have sold hundreds more. The British Legion were thrilled to receive the £277.

SOS—SAVE OUR SOLDIERS APPEAL sent 34 St Helens members out shopping for treats and nice fun things with which to fill a shoe box each. They were sent to a collection point in Crosby, checked and then will be flown out to Afghanistan.

St Helens have sent £450 to SI Cockermouth for their Disaster Fund to help them help the Townsfolk of Cockermouth so badly affected by the dreadful flooding.

SOUTHPORT

SI Southport have been a very busy club over the last few months. In November the PAC Committee organised an evening to raise money for Project Sierra. After a delicious meal Myra Woodcock gave an update on the current situation in Sierra Leone and Jocelyn Glanvill then presented her with a cheque for £2672.



On the 7th December we also held a successful International Night with a French theme. The evening was run by Janet Williams and her

Committee. A typical French 'repas', with 'du vin', of course, was followed by trying to complete a picture quiz of famous French people - which proved to be 'difficile'.



Later in December saw us holding our Christmas Celebration at the Hesketh Golf Club with entertainment by Nula. It was a successful evening and left us all feeling in the mood to enjoy Christmas with friends and family.

Several members also attended the

December Regional Meeting and listened to the presentation given by 'Handicap International UK'. Following this Margaret Davies and her Membership Committee have decided to raise money for this cause by holding a 'Mad Hatters Afternoon Tea' at the end of February. The wearing of a 'Mad Hat' is apparently optional and china cups are to be filled with bizarre concoctions and then sold! More of this madness in a later Newsletter.

At the PAC meal on 1st February, President Gill Ribis presented Miss Tyol of Breast Cancer Care with a cheque for £1500. This has been Gill's main charity for her year in office. Gill has also collected for other charities and has encouraged acts of service such as collecting warm clothing for the Homeless Shelter over Christmas and putting together 'Shoe boxes for Soldiers.'

Your region needs you . . .

From the editor . . .

In the run up to the Federation Conference in Manchester this October, I am looking for support from Club Press Officers, to launch a Publicity Campaign to raise awareness and the profile of Soroptimist International.

After having edited the South Lancashire Leader for the last three years, it has become clear to me that there is a great deal of good work going on in our Region which should be maximised in whatever way we can and the Federation Conference coming to Manchester is an ideal opportunity to sell ourselves.

Maureen Walsh from SI Liverpool has already given me some ideas and I am now asking for help to formulate these ideas into action. If you are willing to help please contact me via SI Oldham or by email to: info@sioldham.co.uk