

# Soroptimist International of Great Britain & Ireland

# SOUTH LANCASHIRE

# LEADER

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## President's Message



**M**Y YEAR as Regional President has been filled with exciting and sometimes new experiences. I have attended a carol service in an historic chapel, done a little Scottish country dancing, seen a blue plaque unveiled and worn my posh frock and big hat for an elegant soirée. I attended a garden party where the marquee had blown away, had lunch overlooking the Grand National finishing post and had a front row seat to hear an amazing male voice choir. I've even opened the envelope and said 'and the winner is' for the North West England and IOM Region's Rosebowl Award.

Thank you to all the clubs who put in such a lot of hard work creating the Blue and Yellow books for the Rosebowl Challenge. I'm sure you'll find them useful to publicise your club. Congratulations to SI Widnes for winning the challenge, and SI Bootle and SI Crosby for being runners up. Next year Bernadette's Challenge will be a written submission of what your club is doing to meet the goals of the Can Do Campaign – so it's all to play for as they say!

*Val Moss*

## Regional Bowls



2008 has seen the celebration of 20 years of bowling in South Lancashire, the final of which took place on Sunday 7th September. The four highest scoring teams took part with SI Liverpool being the winners of the

trophy and are pictured here having accepted the trophy from President Barbara of SI Ramsbottom, whose club were last

year's winners.

The individual games knockout was won by Angela Rowles of SI Widnes and she is pictured here being presented with a brand new award, namely "The Tricia Fahey Cup" which was generously donated by SI Crosby.



Well done South Lancashire, long may the success continue.

## Awards Lunch



On Sunday 21st September, 79 members of the region gathered together for a friendship lunch and to present the Programme Action and Rosebowl awards.

The guest speaker was Doreen Firth who delighted her audience by giving a very entertaining talk on the life of Joyce Grenfell, interspersed with some of her monologues.

We were delighted to welcome Linda Beddows, President of North West England and IOM, who has been judging the Blue and Yellow Books, to present the Rosebowl, which was won by SI Widnes.



The Programme Action Award was won by SI Rochdale for the tremendous work done on Osteoporosis. Sadly no one from Rochdale was able to attend the lunch, so the trophy will be presented at the Regional Council on 27th September.

# OUT AND ABOUT IN THE REGION . . .

## OLDHAM

With the onset of “summer”, President Marilyn hosted her “At Home” and duly erected a marquee in her garden to hold the event. However mother nature thought differently and blew the marquee away amidst all the hectic preparations, just a few hours before the guests arrived.

Plans were hurriedly re-arranged and the



event was moved indoors, where all who attended enjoyed a pleasant

afternoon. The Mayor and Mayoress of Oldham and Regional President Val were present and the sum of £330 was raised for the President’s Charities, Oldham Cancer Care and Oldham Young Carers.

Still optimistic that the sun would shine, members of SI Oldham



took their roadshow to the local carnivals. Wellies, winter woollies and waterproofs turned out to be the order of the day on both occasions. Despite poor turnouts at both events £118 was raised at Oldham and £58 at Failsworth.

## BURY

On 16th July SI Bury held a French themed evening to celebrate Bastille day. Bury is twinned with two French towns, Angouleme and Tulle and a representative, from the twinning association, namely Joyce Johnson, gave an interesting talk



on her visits to both towns and included many funny stories.

There was a cornucopia of French food and wine and complemented by a quiz about France, and raised £342 for one of President Joan’s charities, osteoporosis.

On 10th August a ‘Sunday Best’ afternoon took place at President Joan’s home. Members once again dressed up, this time in ‘forties’ style. Many wore hats and gloves and forties inspired clothing. Some members even went as far as drawing false seams up the back of their legs à la wartime fashion.

More food and drink was consumed and a good time was had by all. The charity to benefit this time was for families bereaved by the death of young people from epilepsy.

## LEIGH

On 27th July, the sun shone for a “charity pamper day,” held in the garden of Elaine Seddon. The club were fortunate enough to have a marquee provided by Anne Smith, who own Smiths Marquees in



Haydock. Members and friends came along for afternoon tea and a variety of pamper treatments provided by volunteer therapists, and around £670 was raised for The British Thyroid Foundation and local Soroptimist Charities. I am sure you will recognise Pat Woodward, pictured receiving a foot and leg massage!



The club have also been delighted to present a certificate representing 40 years’ of service to Alice Judge, who joined the Club in 1968 when she was a Day Nursery Matron, at Stonehouse Nursery in Leigh.

The Leigh club have enjoyed a tour of the brand new Sports Village in the town. The centre boasts state of the art facilities including a rugby and football stadium, a running track and training facilities for the Leigh Harriers, a swimming pool, gymnasium and also corporate facilities. A new hotel being is being built, and it is a great facility for the region with the already well used Pennington Country Park and the golf course close by.



## BOOTLE



The members of SI Bootle have also been busy knitting hats for Save the Children “Hats for Africa Project” which was mentioned by Paul O’Grady on his Channel 4 TV Show.

The photograph shows members of the Bootle Club with the 170 hats that they have knitted for the project which was highlighted on the show some months ago.



In July SI Bootle celebrated 70 years of Soroptimism with a Gala Lunch at Aintree Racecourse, where the guest of honour was Federation President, Marguerite Woodstock-Riley.

At the lunch the club were also delighted to present their longest standing member, Pauline Birkett, who has over 40 years of service, with Honorary Life Membership.

# ... WITH NEWS FROM THE CLUBS

## SOUTHPORT

On July 12th President Margaret Davies held an Afternoon Tea at her home to raise money for local charities like 'The Lighthouse Project'. Over forty people braved the cold weather to be entertained by the excellent Hesketh Bank Silver Band where £473 was raised.



The club were also delighted to hear that, in July, Jean Lee was to receive a newly commissioned award, designed by the Garter King of Arms and featuring the Royal Crown, for her service in the 'Women's Timber Corps' during World War II. This Corps is often referred to as the 'forgotten army' but they worked tirelessly in the forests felling timber, sawing it up, driving trucks, tractors and using horses. So this award gives timely recognition of her courageous contribution to the 'war effort' in those troubled times.

On Saturday 6th September over eighty Soroptimists from the region enjoyed a Programme Action Lunch at The Scarisbrick Hotel. It was a joint venture between SI Southport and SI Bootle and the top table guests were Hilary Ratcliffe Federal Programme Director, Jaquie Marsh President SI Bootle, Val Moss Regional President, Dorothy Lee Councillor and Margaret Davies President SI Southport.



Hilary gave an inspiring talk and explained that exciting changes were taking place in PAC and that we should consider 'the three p's'. These are remaining positive, embracing partnerships in our organisation and society and undergoing the pain that accompanies change.

## STOCKPORT

Soroptimist International of Stockport celebrated its 70th Birthday at the Alma Lodge Hotel on the actual day that it was inaugurated. A special dinner party was held on 27th May to celebrate the beginning of the Stockport Club in the very same hotel in 1938.

The evening was a 'family' occasion attended by nearly all the present members and special guest - Regional President Val Moss.



As well as hearing about the early days members enjoyed looking through the picture archives where their predecessors looked very formal dinner dresses for evening functions and charming hats during the day.

After a splendid dinner, guests were too full to eat the celebration cake, which was decorated with a delightful group photograph of nearly all 35 members, so it was cut up and distributed to everyone wrapped in a napkin. Imagine the astonishment of Jean Barratt when she opened her cake to find her own face smiling up at her!

## ORMSKIRK

In July SI Ormskirk organised a "Big Bike Ride" in support of the NSPCC which took place along the quiet lanes of Aughton near Ormskirk. This is the third year running they have held this event which continues to be popular with local children.



The photograph shows President Alma, President Elect Eunice, Chairman of the Local Branch of the NSPCC Mrs Jackie Croft together with some of the cyclists who took part.

## WIGAN

### "STAR TREKKERS"

1000 women took part in the first midnight walk for Wigan and Leigh Hospice - and walked a circuit of 8 miles - accompanied throughout by a plethora of "hunky male wardens" who looked after them magnificently all of the way around! Despite the inclement weather (luckily the wind was warm and they were tumble dried several times throughout the walk!) it was a great atmosphere and experience - and there was a hot drink and a bacon barm at the end of it!



The amount raised has not yet been announced as the sponsor monies had not all been collected at the time of going to press.

## WIDNES

Due to her support of Water Aid during her year of office, Past President Wendy, received an invitation to go on board the "Christian Radich", which was supported by United Utilities, when the Tall Ships arrived at Albert Dock in Liverpool on 20th July.

Sadly she was unable to attend as were the current President and President Elect. However IPP Hazel, and Vice President Vicky flew the flag for Widnes and along with Immediate Past Regional President Eileen and President Elect Bernadette, they joined the 70,000 strong crowd who visited the Tall Ships.

Wendy said the sun shone, the wine flowed and a great day out was had by all.



*Here they all are wearing their very fetching United Utilities Hats.*

# MORE GOOD WORK FROM CLUBS

## RAMSBOTTOM

During the International Convention in Glasgow last year, members of SI Ramsbottom enjoyed Scottish Hospitality at SI Crieff. The members of the two clubs have kept in touch since then and become friends. Eight members from SI Ramsbottom attended SI Crieff's 50th Anniversary Luncheon on Saturday 28th June.

The photograph shows the President of Scotland North Region Janice Wilson who is also a member of SI Crieff, President of SI Ramsbottom Barbara Hallam and President of SI Crieff Diane Hunter with members of SI Ramsbottom.



President of South Lancashire Region Val Moss, attended SI Ramsbottom's Buffet Lunch and Cricket Match on Sunday 15th June. Over £900 was raised on the day for President Barbara Hallam's chosen charities.



President Barbara from SI Ramsbottom has chosen the North West Air Ambulance as one of her Charities this year and members of the club are working together on a joint event with the NWAA to raise funds and to promote Soropimism.

*Watch this space and all will be revealed at the end of September.*

## ST HELENS

Pictured with Eileen Taylor who founded Women's Aid in St Helens 30 years ago, and Glynis O'Brien the present Women's Refuge Manager are President Alison Tickle with members from SI St Helens along with Joan Foster the Bed Linen Manager from Ena Shaw Ltd receiving a much needed gift of 30 sets of bedding to refurbish the Women's Refuge run by St Helens and District Women's Aid.

The St Helens club would like to express sincere thanks to Mr Barrie Potter for his help with the project, and are proud that his mother Ena Shaw was a member of the club until her death

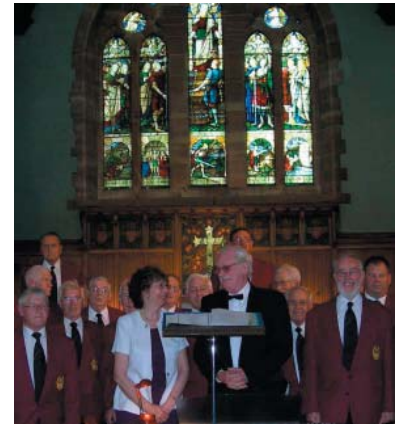


## CROSBY

As part of its 70th anniversary celebrations, S.I. Crosby staged a Summer Serenade concert. The evening featured the Liverpool Male Voice Choir whose musical director, Doreen Forbes, is the club's President-Elect.

Held in Crosby's United Reformed Church the concert attracted a large audience. Principal guests were the Mayor of Sefton, Councillor Paul Tweed, and the President of S.I. South Lancashire Region, Val Moss.

Proceeds from the concert went to Sefton Women's and Children's Aid (SWACA), in particular the current 'Leap Frog' Appeal, which aims to bolster the charity's vital work in support of vulnerable children. Thanks to a grant from Sefton Borough Council, and support from Barclays Bank and local printing company ad4design, SI Crosby were able to donate over £1,500 to the charity from their Summer Serenade."



*The Ripple Effect Gala Concert*

**WaterAid**

**at The Theatre Royal, St Helens,  
on Friday 28th November at 7.30 pm.**

**Featuring**

**The Wigan Youth Jazz Orchestra  
& The Haydock Male Voice Choir**