



Outgoing President: Susan Haywood



A New Member's Lunch was hosted by South Lancashire Region and was held at the beautiful location, Statham Lodge in Lymm. President Denise was most welcoming and past Federation President, Margaret Elmsley inspired new members with her endearing

speech. A week later a Zoom meeting was held with South Lancs to discuss, primarily, the Modernisation paper.

SI Denbigh and Ruthin's Friendship lunch and 70th Charter at Tweedmill was well named, as the club and other members were nothing but friendly and relaxed. The Club saw to it that the afternoon was resplendent with a gorgeous lunch, cake, a generous raffle and quiz. I was delighted to learn that the club had raised £920 from their pop-up charity shop.

Bingo! was the fundraiser for SI Runcorn and Frodsham on 14 October, held at Runcorn Golf Club. Whilst I won nothing on the bingo, I did win a raffle prize. Well done – they raised a massive £620.



The SI Heswall Charter Evening was, as always, a great success, with a delicious dinner and interesting speaker. It's always lovely to have the excuse to put on a sparkly frock!

I can't tell you how much I have enjoyed my year as Region President. It has been an absolute pleasure and honour – anyone waivering about taking on the mantle – don't, just do it. I hope that I have lived up to my mantra of *New Chapters Create New Stories*. Thank you all for your support over the year and I wish Janet every success.

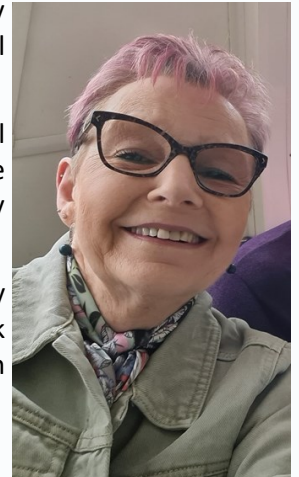
President Susan

Incoming President: Janet Murfin

I'm Janet Murfin and I am very honoured to be the Regional President for the coming year.

Unfortunately I am not at all well at the moment but hope to be back to full strength by the New year.

I am well on the way with my plans for next year and look forward to sharing these with you soon.



My theme for the year is around Friendship and Care. I have been inspired by "Unbind the wing" which comes from a quote from Laura McClaren, the first Lady Aberconwy who inherited Bodnant Gardens from her father.

Laura was a suffragist and did a lot for women's rights. She wanted women not to be "bound" to men or restricted in choice hence unbind the wing.

I will explain in more detail when I get the chance

Anglesey

Our Annual Charity shop event on 10th July proved to be very successful over the 5 days with a profit of £1100 for the President's charities. The continued collection for the food bank was the biggest for the village of Amlwch in one week, weighing 63kgs.

Breast Cancer Month



Continues to be on our calendar each year and we were invited to ASDA, Llangefni to raise awareness with leaflets and other materials to hand out.

ASDA are in favour of promoting knowledge of this cancer as it aligns with their involvement in and is their charity this year.

Long Standing and New – President Janet presenting our long standing member Ann Hutchinson with her 40 years certificate, with Karen Atherton receiving her new members badge. We are delighted to have recruited 6 new members in the last 12 months, Karen being our fourth!



We are excited to be more active with new enthusiasm in our efforts to support women and girls locally and internationally.

We have had numerous PA activities, including creating our Post Operative breast surgery cushions, where we succeeded in supplying 96 to Ysbyty Gwynedd.

We have celebrated International and National action days, weeks and months. We have supported various campaigns, promoted Climate Action and raised awareness and supported a range of issues that affect Women.

We have continued to enable a number of young ladies with educational qualifications and have taken interest and delight in their personal growth.

We are planning future PA activities to enrich, entice and encourage our members to participate, which in turn will empower, educate and enable women close to home and wider afield”

Bangor & District

An enjoyable 75th Charter Lunch was held on Sunday 25th June at Bwyd Da Bangor. We were joined by Regional President Susan and members from 5 Clubs in our District. Guest speaker was Richard Price, Community Development Officer for charity North Wales Recovery Communities (NWRC).



Afternoon Tea at Benllech

We had a lovely get-together with friends at Diane's house having afternoon tea and glass of Prosecco. Big thank you to 'Rondo' for sponsoring the teas. Raffles, crafts and plants were sold and £946.00 raised for NWRC.

Monthly Coffee Mornings

Members enjoying coffee and 'painting the world ORANGE' at Cafe Bwyd Da. An initiative launched by SIGBI on 25th May 2023, to raise awareness to end violence against women and children.



Pizza Party and Wine tasting Evening

What a delightful evening we all had on 12th September held at Jenny's lovely home. We all very much enjoyed the delicious food and wine. Wine tasting expert Ferdy enlightened us on all the lovely wines sampled. A total of £1,116.00 was raised for NWRC. Grateful thanks to Jenny for hosting, and Sue and her brilliant fundraising team for organising.

Charity Fair at Beaumaris

A cheque in the sum of £320 was presented by President Marianne to Anest Jeffery, Trainee Rehabilitation Officer at North Wales Society of the Blind. Grateful thanks to all who very generously contributed to the event.

Honorary Life Member

It is with great pleasure to announce our new Honorary Life Member - Mrs Mair Jones OBE.

Bebington

We have had a busy time since the last newsletter.

It was lovely to welcome some new members from our mother club, Birkenhead. Their wealth of knowledge is proving a great asset to us.

A few members went to the convention in Dublin, where they enjoyed meeting with our international sisters and forming new friendships. Chris Knight from Australia was there and afterwards she came to spend some time with us. Including a "Ladies in hats" afternoon tea.

Chris Knight SIMNI Brisbane, visiting us



Our "Boris the Bullfrog" phonic books were on display at the Dublin convention. They were also invited to enter the UNESCO Literary Award, where they were highly commended. We are so proud of our members Penni and President Laurel for their hard work and achievements on this.

Phonic books, Boris the Bullfrog & The Clever Monkey and the Foolish Crocodile



"Boris" has now been joined by another phonic book, featuring Monty the Clever Monkey and Chris the Foolish Crocodile. These are now on their way to Bo school in Sierra Leone, with President Laurel, where she is on the Board of Directors.

Last but certainly not least we are proud of some other of our members, Cherry who is Deputy Mayor of Wirral with her Consort, Sheila and our Piece de Resistance, Gillie O'Rouke, currently Chair of UKPAC, and soon to become SIGBI President Elect.

We feel very lucky to have so many talented members and wish them all the best in their continuing endeavours and their upcoming year of office.

Chester

We have been supporting the new branch of Tomorrow's Women Chester with their new garden space – donating a covered bench, pots and bulbs, ready for the spring. We have also donated 3 sewing machines, ready to start a sewing circle with centre users when TWC are ready.



We hold regular collections to support local organisations, in particular the local food bank (one of our members also volunteers there), KidsBank – which provides goods and clothes for children up to age 12 and Soul Kitchen who support people coping with homelessness.

Six members of the club plus some family, visited Ness Gardens for the first of our 23/24 social calendar events. It is the University of Liverpool Botanical gardens site and covers 65 acres of mixed fauna, and habitats.



The members spent a happy couple of hours ambling around including the meadows with a view over the River Dee, the kitchen garden for tips on vegetable and fruits (for our President), and the general beautiful gardens with waterfalls and lots of beautiful trees and plants, practicing mindfulness in one member's case. We then enjoyed the obligatory tea and cake after the wander around.

Heswall & District

Heswall has had a packed and busy programme since their August break; with a talk on Mary's Meals from member Susan Donovan and comprehensive feedback from the Dublin Convention by two of our members. Stella McKay-Moffat gave a very helpful talk on 'Demystifying Soroptimists' a most enlightening talk.

The Membership committee have taken part in two craft fairs helping to raise awareness of Soroptimists and possibly recruit new members. The craft group successfully created two story sacs for a local special school.



PAC committee have been hosting Orange Cafes on the 25th of each month, with members wearing orange. So far, we have met in Heswall, Hoylake and Greasby.

The club continues to support and send donations to the food bank and recently sent 127.8kg of food and £495 in cash donations. A Christmas collection is planned for November. Toiletries have been gratefully received by the Lighthouse Centre, Birkenhead.

A group of members are now volunteering at Hoylake Cottage Care Home, with trips and visits planned for the residents. A donation of 6 Twiddle muffs, 3 knee wraps and 3 shawls to the home was much appreciated.

Members attended a Jazz evening organised by Susan Donovan for Marys Meals, successfully raising £1916, which will feed 95 children for a year.

A very successful Charter Dinner was held at Bromborough Golf Club on 21st October. With guest speaker Mrs Lesley Martin-Wright.



Llandudno & District

It has been a busy summer for President Sandra and club members. We held two jewellery stalls on the bank holiday weekends, outside Clare's department store, raising funds for families in Ukraine through Chernobyl Children's Lifeline.

At the Regional meeting in May, we were delighted to win the Barbara Dixon Memorial Award for our work and presentation on Conwy Clothing Bank where several members volunteer regularly.



During the summer, we held a children's clothing stall at two local school fairs and a Church fete to raise awareness and give away clothes to those who needed them.



In June, we held a Barbecue evening with music from Colwyn Bay Ukulele Group, a great evening and a good amount raised for charities.

In July, we were delighted to welcome a new member, Heather, who was introduced by Melynda.

Our summer outing was a guided tour of the RNLI Lifeboat station in Llandudno which was very interesting, followed by supper. Our social events included a train trip to Betws-y-Coed for afternoon tea and a National Express coach trip to Liverpool for shopping and lunch. We had two enjoyable evenings with Llandudno Rotary for a Spanish evening and later in the summer, a bowls evening.

We recently held a coffee morning to raise money for Soroptimist charities and some members still volunteer at Happy Valley to help with gardening and litter-picking and our latest social outing was a guided walk around the local RSPB reserve.

Nantwich & District

In the summer Nantwich and District Soroptimists recently enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea at Rookery Hall to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Nantwich Club, which was attended by several neighbouring Clubs.



Freya Hinton gave a presentation about her local charity, 'Save the Family', which our President, Maggie Evans, has adopted as her chosen charity for her year in office. The afternoon was a great success with several neighbouring groups attending.

Nantwich and District Club resumed in September after a short summer break, and meets in Nantwich every 2 weeks.

The Club supports a number of charities, both local and international.

In this photo Members are shown with some of the household goods which they have collected for the charity 'Save the Family' which is the charity that our President Maggie has adopted as her chosen charity for her year in office.



We have also made donations of underwear and socks to the Crewe based charity 'Chance Changing Lives'

Our thoughts are now on planning for Christmas!

Northwich & District

After a very successful social evening over the summer, SI Northwich have continued to donate to local charities and have been continuing to fund loans through Lend With Care.

We now have 6 loans which have helped 10 entrepreneurs, 28 family members and 42 people overall, as well as creating 4 jobs. We continue to think this is a good way to fund women directly as well as helping their families. We are also part of the SIGBI group so raising the profile of Soroptimist International.

We have continued to collect crisp packets to be made into crisp blankets for the homeless, and in the 2 years since we started we have donated over 20,000 packets, most of which we have split and cleaned ourselves. We have taken the decision we will now only accept packets already split and washed for onward transmission.

We continue to collect coffee pods, items to donate to charity, ink cartridges, glasses and anything else we can recycle, including plastic lids for Region.

We continue to work with a local charity in relation to climate issues, and some members recently joined a workshop to learn how to make fruit gin, very enjoyable.

We have also recently had a presentation from our local police about 'Safer Streets' in our area, as well as a practical demonstration of a couple of the Apps available, including HollieGuard, which can be reassuring if someone is out on their own.



Rhyl & District

Since the last newsletter, we have had a busy time! Joyce Evans hosted a Summer Garden Party where £1000 was raised for our charity The Salvation Army, Rhyl.

We are now preparing for a musical evening with the Trelawnyd Male Voice Choir and The Salvation Army, on 1st December at the Marble Church, Bodelwyddan. Please come and join us if you are free. The tickets are £12 available from President Shirley Whiteway or Shirley Jones .

We have finally completed our long term project to help build a dormitory in Masaka, Uganda to enable girls to receive an education at the local school. Over 7yrs we have raised £10,506.50 towards this venture.



The plaque reads: Thanks SI Rhyl & District UK. Built with assistance of Rhyl Club Members Opened 2023

The Women's Centre, Rhyl: During the summer school holidays we provided themed picnics based on Super Heroes, Pirates and Teddy Bear's Picnic for 60 children. Fancy dress outfits were provided for one of the volunteers to wear. During 16 Days of Activism, we will be delivering "One-pot Workshops", cooking with a slow cooker. Participants will be given a slow cooker as some are living in one room or units with minimal facilities.

We celebrated International Night with a Jamaican themed evening in the presence of Reg. President Susan and were entertained by a live steel band.



Several of us will be visiting The Houses of Parliament for a guided tour in November organised by Dr James Davies MP.

Wishing all friends well and looking forward to seeing you at the Change of Insignia

Runcorn, Frodsham & District

We continue to work on our Mastectomy Cushion Project and regularly take them to The Countess of Chester and Halton Hospitals breast care units.

We have now added another strand to the project and are making and donating drain bags as requested by the hospital. We are in the early stages and are trialling the effectiveness of this part of the project.



As well as our Programme Action work we do like to put the fun in fundraising so this year for the first time we held a 'Bingo Night'! It was a huge success and raised over £700 for our Christmas projects and it was also great fun.

During our British Summer we held our club garden party it rained and rained and kept on raining! This year member Karen and husband Ken hosted the garden party and thanks to Ken for erecting a fabulous marquee, so that we were all able to enjoy a fabulous afternoon together of Fun, Food and Friendship - and we stayed dry!



Having held successful fundraising events with a couple more to come, we can now think about our 'Operation Christmas' projects. This year we are supporting our local Food Bank, Halton Children's Centre Toy Appeal, and Causeway – Christmas gifts for women survivors of trafficking.

Members of Runcorn, Frodsham and District wish everyone a Very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and all good wishes for 2024.

South Caernarfonshire

We lost our secretary Sue Maskell so suddenly this, year through a very rare Melanoma cancer, so we are going to concentrate on our fundraising for the research of this disease in 2024/2025. She was such a huge part of our Club, keeping us going through the pandemic and beyond. She is greatly missed and will be always remembered.

Our Club is very much a “Friendship” Club as well as a hardworking Club. This year we Celebrated our Club’s Golden anniversary! We held an afternoon tea celebration in one of our members’ home with lots of bubbly and cake!

We visited one of our local ancient churches that has the grave of a young black boy who was brought to work locally in the 18th century, then we had tea and cake in a members garden.

We held a Harvest Supper of soup and cheeses to present a cheque of £1300 to our main charity Tir Dewi, the representatives gave us a presentation which was so interesting and gave an insight into how difficult farming life is today.



We held a coffee morning to raise funds for the refurbishment of the Bereavement Suite attached to the Maternity unit in Ysbyty Gwynedd, we raised £1000.



In December we shall be celebrating our 50th Charter Year with our Soroptimist family and friends at Portmeirion.

S.I. Ellesmere Port & District 1943—2023

Originally part of the Divisional Union and the North Wirral clubs. S.I. Liverpool being S.I. Ellesmere Port's Grandmother club and S.I. Birkenhead being the mother club and the clubs this side of the River Mersey subsequently becoming part of the Divisional Union and subsequently the Region of Cheshire North Wales and the Wirral

Chartered in 1943 with 18 Founder members headed by Miss Dorothy Anderson MBE and at its height boasted 48 members Dorothy led the club for many years and went on to become a Region President 1967-1968, the Region extension officer 1945-1962 and again 1970-1971. She went on to assist in the formation of many clubs in the Region. Dorothy used to tell us tales of her going to meetings on her motor bike during the dark days after the war.

The clubs Chain of Office was gifted to the club by Dorothy and depicts the Borough Coat of Arms.



Member Doctor Dorothy Griffiths 4th President of the Ellesmere Port club and Divisional Union President went on to become Federation President .

Miss S Lister was D U Treasurer 1953 to 1956
Florence White D U Secretary 1982 to 1984

As well as being S.I. Birkenhead's daughter club S.I. Ellesmere Port became mother club to S.I. Runcorn and S.I. Nantwich. Over the years Ellesmere Port club have had a really close relationship with these clubs including S.I. Birkenhead and have been proud of being attached to such a wonderful region.

The club are proud to have had 6 members progress to Region Presidents 4 of them by the name of Dorothy!! A number of members went on to hold various offices on the Region Exec.

The first major charity of S.I. Ellesmere Port was a garden party which raised nearly £200 for the Stalingrad hospital one of the ties between Ellesmere Port club and the hospital commemorated by a plaque erected by the Anglo Soviet Russian committee in Stalingrad hospital "A token of admiration from the Ellesmere Port and District Soroptimist club".

The club also created a blind sensory garden in Ellesmere Port which is situated alongside the Civic Hall and is still blooming there today.

Over the years the club have supported various charities and causes with members joining in many of the committees of some of these. Along with the Quadrennial appeals as they were then, one such appeal being "Limbs for Life" for which a Soroptimist Quilt was championed by Kate Moore this was to raise awareness and provide prosthetic limbs for people being maimed by landmines left behind in war torn countries. The quilt travelled many miles through many countries raising funds and awareness

Our member Betsi Wilkins designed the Regions Square and it was embroidered by Nora Gamon from S.I. Runcorn. A greetings card and badges were developed from this and sold for the " Limbs for Life fund".

Anne Macdonald a previous member of the club headed up the Project Sierra Appeal which the club were very proud of her achievement.

Moving on each president has guided the club in the fundraising and Programme work and volunteering during their term of office and represented the club admirably at other clubs and outside bodies at functions.

We have supported

- Marys meals for many years with our back packs
- MQ Mental Health Research when we raised £4,000.00 something which was very close to the heart of one of our members. We loved our trip to London to present this donation
- Maggie's who give support to victims and their families when suffering from life threatening illness such as cancer
- Local schools, the Food banks, Mayfields Dementia Home, Naylor Court a residence for the elderly, Flynn's Port in the Storm Mental Health Café
- Refuge Assist and many more

We managed to get the Civic Hall to Orange up for our Orange the World campaign.

Two of our members were very proud to be recognised in the 100 hundred years of Soroptimism having made a valuable contribution to the organisation.

The club have had various friendship Links One in particular S.I. Colombo Sri Lanka. For many years we have been able to support them financially in particular 2 orphan girls post Tsunami, this gained the club an International Best Practice award. The club have continued to support their club projects for many years now.

We have valued the friendship of our other links around the international world of the organisation and some of us hope to keep in touch with them via Social media.


The club have had the opportunity to recognise the needs of others and its given our members an opportunity to serve our local, National and global communities. As individuals we will continue to support those charities etc .

It has also provided members with the opportunities to visit our own and other countries for Conferences and Conventions and making friends world-wide while having fun and friendship.

Dorothy Cartwright MBE







Challenging The Status Quo

 #ChooseToChallenge

 #IWD2021

