

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
- Maggies 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





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1921-2021
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