

# Soroptimist International Wallasey

## Over 75 Years of Service

### Our History

1946 - 2022



# SI Wallasey - 1946 - 2022

## History overview

As membership grew, the Soroptimist Club of Birkenhead and Wallasey split in 1946 to become two separate Clubs. The separation had the approval of Miss Dora Henderson the President of the Southern Section of the North West Division (now Region of Cheshire, North Wales & Wirral). On 29th April 1946 the Headmistress of Wallasey High School for Girls, Miss M.E. Perrott, was elected the first Club President at a meeting in the school library. One of the Founder Members, Mrs Una Barrett-Leonard (President 1949-1950) remained a member for the rest of her life.

Costing 10 shillings and 6 pence (approx. 52.2p today) a private room was hired at the Punch and Judy Café in Seaview Road Wallasey for the first meeting of 19 prospective members. The annual subscription for members was set at £2 2 shillings (£2.10p). The Club received a warm welcome from the local newspaper, The Wallasey News, with praise for Miss Perrott as President citing her as a 'well above average woman' being deeply interested in human affairs.

The Club was officially chartered on Tuesday 8th October 1946 at a dinner held at the Riverside Restaurant, New Brighton. President Miss Perrott received the Charter from Federation President Miss F.M. Bailey. Formal annual dinners celebrated the Club's Chartering with evening dress and black tie. Local dignitaries were invited, as were presidents from other Soroptimist clubs and other clubs e.g. Rotary.



## Charter Dinner Celebration of 1951 – 2nd right President Madeline



## Club insignia – blue enamel on silver hallmarked '1945 Chester'

Originally worn on blue ribbon with silver badges of  
each president's name, later with a modern silver  
chain



## 50th Charter Dinner 1996

President Jackie Culpin (Rt) with Federation President Patricia Fahey



## 60th Charter Dinner 2006

Picture right to left – Club President Hilary Andrews, International President Lynn Dunning, Federation President Ann Dawson.



**60th Charter dinner Hollins  
Hey Hotel, New Brighton**



Centre of the photo in pink, Region President and Club member Sue Taylor surrounded by Soroptimist Presidents from across the Region.

## 70th Charter Dinner 2016

President Stella McKay-Moffat (left) cuts the cake with Federation President Margaret Emsley.



70th Charter dinner  
Club President Stella with  
Federation President Margaret Emsley

Service to, and support of the local community has always been very high on Members' agenda. This has ranged from support and gifts for the elderly; donations of funds and equipment to local health services e.g. Claire House children's hospice and Arrowse Park Hospital special care baby unit; help for the local Women's Refuge; and even an estate car for the local WRVS Meals on Wheels service. Environmental issues are pursued e.g. planting of trees and beach clean at Fort Perch Rock in New Brighton where items were logged and reported to the Marine Conservation Society.

**Member Barbara Duff being interviewed by North West News in 2011 about the beach cleaning.**



Many social or informative outings and Conference attendances have been enjoyed, and members continue to enjoy socializing together. Whilst membership of the Club is significantly reduced compared to that of the early days (corresponding to falls in membership in many clubs and organisations) members remain committed to helping to improve the lives of women and girls, locally, nationally and internationally.

Despite the falling membership in recent years, members have continued their project work supported by fundraising activities such as sales of handmade craft items. Funds enabled provision of feminine hygiene products for local schools through the Red Box appeal and the local Foodbank and Tomorrows Women Wirral were given much needed produce and funds.

Annual donations have been forwarded to Water Aid whilst backpacks were filled for the international children's charity Mary's Meals. Opportunities were taken to raise public awareness of modern day slavery and ovarian cancer.







Our environment was not forgotten as members collected empty medicine blister packs and plastic bottle tops for recycling. In spite of two years of



restrictions due to the Covid pandemic, members were determined to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Club's chartering in October 2021. A quiet afternoon tea proved the ideal occasion. At an Extraordinary General Meeting in March 2022 the decision was made by a unanimous vote, albeit with great regret and deep sadness, that Wallasey Soroptimists would close. It was agreed that final donations would be made to Water Aid, the local food bank and Tomorrows Women Wirral demonstrating the commitment to the wellbeing of women and girls locally and internationally.

## 75th Charter Afternoon Tea 2021

