Summer 2026 update from SI Plymouth & District

This newsletter is for members and 'Friends' of Plymouth Soroptimists, keeping everyone up to date with our activities and inviting you to join us at our club, social and fundraising events.

News/Events

New members

We were delighted to welcome new members Helen and MaryAnn into our club at our September meeting. Helen and MaryAnn told us briefly about their careers and the very good reasons why they decided to join the Soroptimist family.



MaryAnn, President Ann and Helen

Pasty, Prosecco and Pudding fundraiser

Over £400 was raised for our project funds at a lunch at a member's home. The 23 members, three new and two past members and some Soroptimisters enjoyed the afternoon socialising. Thanks for Cornwall Bakery for providing the pasties and a hamper for the raffle.



Lamb Feast

Another successful fundraising event resulted in over £1400 raised for our project funds thanks to the amazing raffle prizes for adults and the ever-popular tombola for children. The weather was warm and sunny which brought out a good crowd so in addition to the raffle tickets sold before the event, we raised a significant amount on the day. It's a long day and hard work but team effort paid off with some members getting there early to set up the two stands, a relay of members during the day selling raffle and tombola tickets and a team at the end of the day dismantling the stands. Our thanks to the generous local businesses and members who donated wonderful raffle prizes and tombola gifts.



Some of the Lamb Feast Team

Dress a Girl Around the World

Dress a Girl Around the World (DAGAW) is a wonderful organisation dedicated to bringing dignity, hope and joy to girls around the world through a simple gift of a handmade dress. Since it began in the UK over 50,000 dresses have been made and gratefully received.

Plymouth Soroptimists have supported this cause for some years, through choosing fabrics and patterns to carefully sewing every stitch. Our Soroptimists and friends give their time, skills and kindness to support this important cause. Each completed dress represents far more than clothing - it is a symbol of encouragement, confidence and human connection.

Stitched on the front of each dress is an official DAGAW label. Village pastors have informed the organisation that giving a girl a new dress raises her dignity as well as how she is viewed by others. This indicates to predators that this girl is under the care of an organisation. Dresses are sent to Uganda, Cameroon and Nigeria.

A box of 100 dresses was packed and sent to our UK contact for shipment - they take several weeks to arrive. Through generosity and teamwork, communities and individuals help make a meaningful difference, one dress at a time. Every dress tells a story of compassion, dignity and love. If others are interested supporting this cause please contact Wendy Wood via **siplymouthclub@gmail.com**.

Wendy



Girls in Rwanda with the dresses





Some of the dresses we sent to DAGAW

PUMA donations

Members regularly donate items including clothes, sleeping bags, medical aids etc to PUMA (Plymouth Ukraine Medical Aid). These donations are stored in a warehouse with items from all over the local area until a full lorry is driven by volunteers to Ukraine and distributed where needed. We're now thinking ahead and getting prepared to put together 50 wrapped shoe boxes filled with Christmas gifts for children in Ukraine.

Orange cafes

Orange symbolises a brighter future free of violence and is the colour used for the International Day for the Elimination of violence against women and children.



The Hub





Jan Cutting Centre

On the 25th of most months throughout the year we hold an 'orange café' in various locations in our area. In April the café was in The Hub, Devonport. One survivor of domestic abuse contacted SIGBI to say how inspirational it was to meet our members at the Orange café. Some very interesting conversations with a range of people make the events very worthwhile. The July café was held in the Jan Cutting Centre, Beacon Park.

Easyfundraising

Our club has been using 'Easyfundraising ' for a few years and are delighted that to date we have raised £1,027.54 using this easy tool to raise funds. Sometimes it's a lot more than pennies – President Ann reports getting a donation of over £21 on a Brittany Ferry sailing this summer!

If you shop online, you can help us raise funds for our projects by adding the Easyfundraising app to your phone, computer or laptop and then select Plymouth Soroptimists as your chosen charity. Then when you are shopping, if the company you are using is in the scheme you will get a reminder that you can gain 'commission' just by clicking on the right place. It will tell you how much will be given to Plymouth Soroptimists in your name. It costs you nothing as it is paid by the company that you are buying from and it is that easy!

Every time you use it a few pennies are raised for us to be able to help people who are less fortunate than ourselves.

Microfinance – Lend with care

President Ann is continuing to manage our small investments supporting a number of women throughout the world by lending them a little money to help them maintain, improve or set up a small business. This enables them to be independent and self-sufficient. Once their business is profitable the loan is gradually repaid with that money being invested in other small businesses run by women. At the moment £600 is out on loan helping women with their businesses.

Future events

7th October:	Club meeting at Duke of Cornwall Hotel
21st October:	*Supper meeting at Duke of Cornwall Hotel. Speaker is a student midwife talking about her placement in Tanzania which was partly sponsored by SI Plymouth
4th November:	Club meeting at Duke of Cornwall Hotel
8th November:	Remembrance Sunday when we will be laying a poppy wreath at the War Memorial on Plymouth Hoe
18th November:	*Supper meeting – speaker TBC

Click to find us on or visit our website

If you no longer want to be included in our 'Friends of Plymouth Soroptimists' group please email siplymouthclub@gmail.com