



LEAGUE LETTER



Registered Charity No. 230834

July/August 2017

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It has been an odd few weeks. By odd, I mean terrible, frightening, horrible, sad and but also a time of hope. Three terrorist attacks, Manchester Arena, London Bridge and the Finsbury Mosque, all targeted by people so lost in their own narrow understanding of what it is to be human, they take the lives of innocent people. Then Grenfell Tower, and the fire which took an as yet and perhaps always unknown number of lives.

The immediate aftermath of these terrible events however, created a vacuum into which poured the goodness, kindness and compassion of communities not prepared to bow to the anger and hatred of others. If there is a lesson in any of this it is this; that humanity is greater than we know and that love is indeed stronger than hate.

I am sure I speak for all the women of our League when I say how much we deplore these acts, acts of terrorism, acts of neglect, acts of hatred, ignorance and stupidity. I suspect I may speak for us all when I offer our heartfelt compassion to all who are affected by the chaos.

Most of us may feel a long way from the threat of such chaos, and yet I am often surprised how close we actually are to the centre of the turmoil. Just a few days ago I spoke to an old friend, who knew two of those killed in Manchester, and several of those who were fortunate to escape without physical injury. Even when we are not directly involved we are but a few degrees away from it and as fellow human beings we are indeed directly involved with that which affects others and cannot turn our backs and think it doesn't concern us.

I read a quote the other day, taken from the rapper Eminem, which said, *'I don't care if you're black, white, straight, bisexual, gay, lesbian, short, tall, fat, skinny, rich or poor. If you're nice to me, I'll be nice to you.'* I almost like that very much, but the last line feels, though probably not deliberately, conditional. I want it to say, *'..... I will be kind to you, and I hope you will be kind to me.'*



Kindness like smiling, costs us nothing and there is a bottomless well of it. Yet we make it conditional, if you are kind/nice to me, I will be kind/nice to

you. I want to urge every member of this League to practise the simple art of kindness, total, unconditionally always, regardless of whether we receive the same in return. I want us to BE kind, all the time, to be the best face of humanity, to become the teachers of humanity.

I have a suspicion that kindness is catching. The Women's League has too often been seen as a quaint group of old ladies sharing tea and gossip - well it's time to stand back up again and show that we have a great purpose. Let us stand up and be counted with those already standing, and join in the creation of a pandemic of kindness in our world and achieve what politics, warring, hatred and violence cannot.

Blessings on all our endeavours.

Celia

PRESIDENT'S VISITS

February 3rd Manchester District

March 10th Padiham

If you wish Celia to visit your WL, please send her your requests as soon as you can to give her time to book travel etc. Thank you. (Ed.)

WOMEN'S LEAGUE PROJECT

The 2017/2018 Project is: **Prostate Cancer UK**

Please make cheques payable to
Women's League Project Account

Eunice Smith
39 Pegasus Court
Bury Road
ROCHDALE
OL11 4EA

Tel: 01706-643319



Total received to date is **£1010.50**

N.B. Cheques incorrectly made out will no longer be accepted by our building society!

Due to the high cost of postage, receipts will only be posted if an S.A.E is enclosed.