

## SI Harrogate

### Visit to Malawi

Chrisabel England reports on her visit to Malawi



I have been in Africa for a month. This was my 4th visit and while I was there I went with 4 of the Blantyre (Malawi) Soroptimists on their routine visit to the female prison. Lynn Dunning has always been very interested in the Malawian work as they are such a small group but work so hard and make a real difference to their home town.

I also visited the Open Arms Infant Home, Blantyre in Malawi. This Home has 40 under 2 year old. The aim is for



Little ones patiently waiting for Christabel and Derick to take them next door to have some ice cream. They had been ready for this trip almost one hour.

the babies to become healthy and at the age of 2 they return home to their extended family as most of them are in the Home due to their Mothers dying. They will be absolutely fine at 2 years old to live with the family, eating the general food. I have visited them 4 times and am due to go again in September 07.

SI Blantyre have 16 members who work really hard for their community. They give talks to local schools on any health issue but photos are when they talked about breast feeding. We visited the local prison to take little parcels of goodies and spend time talking to them. About 34 ladies, some with children, came to meet me. We gave them their goody bags and they sang to me. I was asked to give a talk to them, through an interpreter, sending



them my good wishes etc. We stayed around 30 minutes. It is the first time they have been allowed to take photographs in the prison.

The SI ladies visit on a regular visit and they don't require to keep to any rules re days or times. They visit the men when



time allows. The ladies are in prison for a variety of reasons, many are extremely minor offences but they lack anyone to help them get out. The SI ladies have been able to get help from a local lawyer and through one of the Sisters in the prison have started to work with the ladies in getting appeals for them. The work is endless as they need educating in almost every thing to do with life. But at least this is a start.

## Woman in the Community Award

The winner of the SI Harrogate and District Woman in the community Award is Eleanor Mc Robert from Knaresborough who is Chairman of the Harrogate Branch of Hearing Dogs for Deaf People and was nominated by Anne Hetherington. Eleanor has worked with 11 dogs for two to three months in her home over the last two years to socialise the puppies ready for special training. The award was presented by Maureen Ingleton President of SI Harrogate and Pat Shore