



Seasider News

from
Soroptimist International Blackpool & District

Women inspiring action
transforming lives

December 2020
Editor - **Norma Parry**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Ladies, I hope that everyone is well.



On 17th December we are having our Christmas Zoom meeting. Let's get into the festive spirit by wearing red or green or a Christmas jumper. Have your favourite drink ready. There will be a Christmas quiz-25 questions only, with a prize for the winner.

We are going to have a raffle. The prize is a Geranium and Orange Reviving Collection, consisting of a shower gel, body lotion and hand cream from Neal's Yard Remedies. I will put everyone's name into a container and Alan will pull out a winner. I would appreciate it if you can forward your donations to the treasurer to raise money for Blue Skies our charity for the year. I am looking forward to seeing you all on 17th December.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Christine

SIGBI CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

Our long standing club member (Vourneen) Jo Darbyshire DL, has been chosen to be showcased on the SIGBI Centenary website as one of more than 100 Soroptimists from the Federation of Great Britain & Ireland who have made a noteworthy contribution to society in the furtherance of the aims and objects of the organisation.



President Christine is pictured presenting the certificate to Jo.

More information on the SIGBI Centenary Website can be found at the address below:

<https://sigbi.org/soroptimistcentenary2021/a-brilliant/showcasing-one-hundred-soroptimists-for-the-centenary-100-4-100/whoishe-soroptimists-for-the-centenary/>

NEWS FROM FWCA

Glenda Smith from FCWA has sent the following message to our PA Officer, Marcia:

Things have been stressful for us this year, we are not currently doing face to face work for the majority of our projects, everything is via phone or zoom which isn't great but it is safe for the staff, most of whom worked from home from March to July. We still have our refuges open and encourage staff to use PPE. It has been tough at times for refuge staff particularly at the start of the March lockdown. The CYP workers are going into schools where they can and are doing essential one to one work, they are also providing support on telephone and zoom.

We started a joint project in April with Police and NHS whereby we have workers that go out with Police staff to 999 calls and follow up calls for domestic abuse to give support to victims. This has proved to be a huge success and has grown from 1 of our workers to 5 plus 1 health worker. In August we were successful in obtaining the contract for all high risk work in Blackpool, 6 workers were TUPED over to us, the staff from both IDVA teams quickly jelled and the contract is working well. Just before the start of the latest lockdown we split our community staff into 2 bubbles working from home on alternate weeks, as some staff had mild mental health concerns during the last lockdown and were reluctant to work from home permanently again. Having the 2 bubbles protects us, if there is an outbreak in one bubble the other bubble is safe to work.

SOROPTIMISTS SUPPORT ORANGE

From 25th November Soroptimists all over the world turned the world orange in support of Domestic Abuse and Gender Based Violence everywhere during 16 days of action. Many clubs marked this by posting messages and images in Orange all over social media.

The campaign ended on 10th December which is International Human Rights Day and also when Soroptimists support the International President's Appeal, which this year is supporting "The Road to Equality."

