



Seasider News

from
Soroptimist International Blackpool & District

Women inspiring action
transforming lives

September 2020
Editor - **Norma Parry**



ALISON CALLUM

Alison was made an Hon Member of the Club and the longer standing Club members will certainly remember her. Alison suffers from Dementia and Mary Leavy has been a faithful and regular visitor over several years. Mary raised the question at a recent business meeting as to how we could get in touch with Alison following the death of her carer. Marcia managed, with lots of help from the Vicar in Poulton, to make contact with Alison's nephew who lives in Scotland. He is very happy for visits to restart as and when conditions permit, and Mary and Marcia now have his contact details. Alison is a happy dementia patient, her short term memory is poor but she is good at long term recall and still retains her wonderful sense of humour. She is looked after by carers.

PROGRAMME WORK

SIGBI Day of Action was held on 18th July 2020 and the challenge came from Programme Director Kay Richmond "to make climate action the programme focus for 2020" to showcase what we, as Soroptimists, are doing to monitor our carbon footprint". Some suggestions are:
Taking 5 minute showers.
Keeping on only lights needed and unplugging appliances when not in use.
Using own bags for shopping.
Recycling clothes and books to a charity shop.
Using the recycling bins appropriately for paper, plastic.
Buying local produce.
Meat free meals.

SMALLS FOR ALL



This week we are celebrating the two huge parcels we've put together for the charity, "Smalls for All". Altogether we have collected 67 bras and 18 pairs of pants which will be distributed to those who need it most in Africa!

Many of those who need such underwear are fistula patients. These are women who, through no fault of their own, have experienced prolonged labour and lost their babies as a result of this; only then to find themselves incontinent – sometimes through both bladder and bowel (urine and faeces).

They have had to discard much, if not all, of their own underwear because of the damage caused by this incontinence, and are often using matted rags instead. So, when they have gone through successful surgical repair for their fistula, there is nothing better than being able to give that woman a full set of clothing to go home in – which has to include some new underwear!

As well as brand new pants, Smalls for All collect new and gently worn bras to provide comfort and support.

Marcia then challenged our club members to contribute to this, together with the on-going challenge for inspirational women.
Can you do more to help?

SUMMERTIME COCKTAIL PARTY

On Thursday 20th August our club members met via ZOOM for a "Socially Distanced Cocktail Party". A booklet was put together with some very interesting ideas for cocktails. Not only was this a very good social occasion, it also gave club members a chance to take part in the Regional Quiz.



There were 10 rounds in the quiz, with each round containing 10 questions and 1 further round which was an Open Question asking for no more than 300 words to explain:-

- (a) What has your club learnt during COVID-19?
- (b) How have you coped and kept in contact with each other?
- (c) What are your plans for the future, after the lockdown restrictions have been lifted?

A good time was enjoyed by all who were able to attend and the results of this quiz are expected later this month.

The cocktail booklet is available in pdf format from Secretary Pam.



Have you seen the range of items for sale to celebrate 100 years of Soroptimist International? (Now available)
If any members are interested in purchasing these items, one order sent from the club could save on postage and packing.

