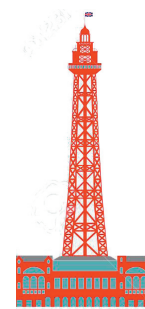




Seasider News

from
Soroptimist International Blackpool & District
Women inspiring action
transforming lives



February 2021

Editor - **Norma Parry**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



This year Soroptimist International celebrates its centenary. If you think of all the clubs and members in the world that is a lot of women. Even more impressive is what has been achieved by Soroptimists over the years through hard work and determination. The Programme Action work is second to none.

We as a club, over the last sixty years have supported 145 charities and we have made a difference to women's lives in the many different projects we have been involved in. Even during this pandemic we are doing excellent work through Programme Action and with our various collections for worthy causes.

Monday 8th March 2021 is International Women's Day. Maybe we ought to reflect on all that we have done and look forward to what we will achieve in the future by working together and supporting each other. I am proud to be a Soroptimist and I hope you are too.

In friendship

Christine

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

More examples of Soroptimists helping in the local community come from Helen Thompson and Elaine Midgley.

Helen has worked in the NHS as a nurse and a midwife for over 30 years before her retirement and has now volunteered to become a vaccinator at a local Covid clinic. All her assessments are in place and she is now waiting to hear where and when her services will be needed.

Following on from the work Elaine was doing in the first lockdown with the **Fylde Coast Scrubbers**, she has been co-ordinating a team of wonderful stitchers who have been making masks for general use, and has recently started making special masks for singers. To date over £8,000 has been raised for Trinity Hospice. The stitchers have also made scrubs for a local school for the team to wear when performing their Covid testing roles.

Elaine has also been asked by Millfield School if she would like to be involved in Covid testing of the staff and students at the school. She has completed the NHS online training and has already done a couple of days of testing. More will follow after half term!!

Being of a certain age many of our club members have now had their first dose of the vaccine and will be looking forward to receiving the second dose in March/April. Hopefully the time will come soon when we can meet up again in person.

PROGRAMME ACTION

A reminder of the current collections which our club are involved with:



Bras and Knickers (new) for **"Smalls for All"** plus old and unwanted spectacles for **"Vision Aid."**



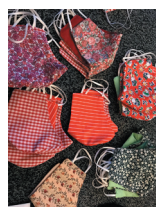
NEW FOR 2021

In lieu of hosting our usual programme action supper this year, the **Fylde Coast Women's Refuge** have asked that we continue to collect any sort of cleaning products that their women could use when setting up a new home of their own.

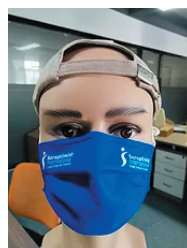


Ring Pulls from drink cans only in aid of **"Purple Community Fund."** These are used to make jewellery and other items which provides an avenue out of poverty for women in the Philippines and Tanzania.

Another new idea which has come from SI Lancaster, is to collect the empty sleeves which have contained pills. These are collected by certain chemists for recycling for charity. Marcia is going to look into getting a local chemist involved but in the meantime SI Lancaster are happy to take any donations we may wish to make.



Elaine's masks sell for £2 each and the special masks for those with breathing difficulties or for singing are £13. The latter have sold all over the country!!



NEW SIGBI Face Mask in Blue with SIGBI Logo in White. 3 Layer Adjustable nose clip mask with seams, comfortable elastic strap, adjustable strap length. Front fabric 100% Polyester woven fabric, Back Lining fabric 100% Cotton gauze. Features: Anti-dust, washable, re-usable, foldable and very comfortable to wear. £5 plus P&P