



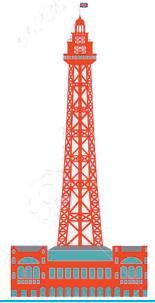
Seasider News

from
Soroptimist International Blackpool & District

Women inspiring action
transforming lives

June 2021

Editor - **Norma Parry**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



At our Regional Meeting on 12th June 2021 it was announced we were winners of the Haslingden Shield for retained membership which is great news.



It was also announced that we had won the Carnforth Shield for our continuous Programme Action project with Talking News, which past and present members have been involved for forty four years.



I would like to say first, a special thank you to Mary Leavy who co-ordinates and organises the team. Thank you too to everyone who is involved with Talking News for all your hard work, time and effort, you each put in every month. I really do appreciate what you do.

Soroptimist International of Blackpool and District members are a fantastic team of individuals; we work well together, supporting one another in everything we do. I know I have said this before but I'm going to say it again. You should all be very proud of what we achieve.

Well done everyone.

In friendship

Christine

OBITUARY



It is with great sadness, that our club received the news that Federation President, Johanna M Raffan MBE, had sadly passed away on 15th June, just over halfway through her year of office.

President Christine has sent a card of condolence on behalf of the club, to the SIGBI offices in Stockport. Our thoughts and prayers are with Johanna's immediate family.

HISTORY OF TALKING NEWS

President Christine has put together the story of the club's award winning Talking News project.

Forty four years ago the Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Society for the Blind, now known as N-Vision invited representatives of interested groups to meet to consider the production of a 'Talking Newspaper'.

Dorothy Ford and Dora Bloomer, now sadly no longer with us, attended. As a result in early 1977 Soroptimist International of Blackpool formed one of the first teams to be responsible for the production of tape recordings of the Blackpool Evening Gazette.

The work has involved members of the club in editing, reading, learning to use the continually updated recording equipment, fast copying and in the early years taking the bags of mail to the GPO for next morning's delivery. In 1988 members also purchased a new recording table and microphones for Talking News.

During the current Coronavirus Pandemic four of the regular reading and recording team trained in July/August 2020 on the Audacity App to enable members to record at home. They were then shown how to save and put a format together to enable them to send it to N -Vision, who were grateful for our recordings, as very few teams were able to provide recordings for them.

We are proud that we have never failed in our commitment through the many changes that have brought about the present highly organised Talking Newspaper. We make regular recordings, now monthly, since the Talking News project began in 1977, a total of forty four years continuous service. We currently read Lancashire & North West magazine.

100 for 100

100 for 100 was Federation President, Johanna Raffan's challenge to clubs, to celebrate 100 years of Soroptimist International by raising £100 doing a club project. All monies raised would go to the Diamond Education Grant, which assists women to update their skills after employment breaks or to acquire new skills to improve their opportunities for employment and promotion. Skills as diverse as helicopter engineering, teacher training and sign language interpreting have been helped by this grant.

SI Blackpool & District rose to the challenge, making 100 pom poms, 100 knitted hats, 100 face masks and running 100 miles. All our other club members have supported these efforts and a total of £455 has been raised so far.