

President Anne's Message

Who will forget 2020? While we grapple with new technical vocabulary, are bombarded with statistics and graphs and learn new skills in communication technology, we are still most touched and affected by the human stories behind the headlines. So too in our own club, where we continue to support each other through the shadows of illness and personal struggles, whilst sharing joy and good humour in our day to day contact and phone calls. It is this same interest in the human story that is why we became Soroptimists, why we have always want to reach out to those who have routinely suffered isolation through their lack of resources, food, money or their lack of supportive, healthy relationships.

While some things seldom change, our engagement with our usual club activities will be different for the foreseeable future and at least through my year as president. We use the expression '2020 hindsight' but we cannot look back with nostalgia. The challenge is moving forward in new ways as we explore how to act out our Soroptimist vision and mission with creativity and imagination, whilst keeping social distance!

My focus for the year will be around violence against the person, in all its forms. To help fight against the cruel trafficking of humans for economic and sexual slavery, my charity for the year will be Stop the Traffik Liverpool. We will continue to focus our attention on domestic violence, which has risen alarmingly during this lockdown period. As we spend more time at home, our work through advocacy can continue with petitions, lobbying, letter writing and raising awareness of violence against people, especially women and girls. We will also focus on empowering victims to make positive life changes, in particular with our support for the federation project 'Empowering Girls in Nepal' through the ChoriChora Project. Our growth plan will also open up new partnerships and provide opportunities to welcome new members who share our vision.



So, as we begin a new club year keep your distance from fear, isolate yourself from pessimism, and test positive for optimism. After all, 2020 means perfect vision too!

Anne Grimes

1 May 2020

Volunteers Week - June 2020

For this year's Volunteers Week, we asked you all to send in the names of organisations where you volunteered, as many of you volunteer for different community organisations. They were going to join the Liverpool Community Voluntary Sector to highlight the week at the Blackie Hall but due to the Pandemic this was not possible. So instead, we used the logos from those organisations to show how many places are impacted in the city from the volunteer work which we generously give our time, energy and money to! This image was shown to the world on social media via twitter and Instagram! You should all be very proud of yourselves!



World Environmental Day - 5th June

On this day members affirmed their position in keeping our environment safe. Members made different pledges to show that having clean environment which is part of Soroptimist Strategy (Development Goal 13) is very important in our Programme Action. The pledges were displayed on our Twitter, Instagram and Facebook page.

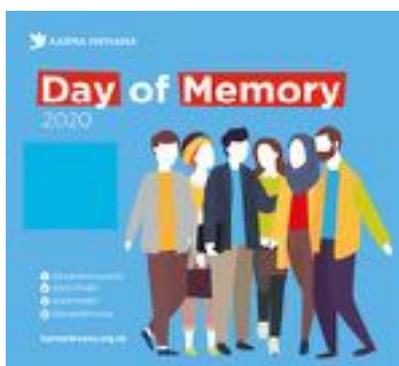
Sharon's Swim - 8th July

Sharon completed the brave swim to raise money for Stop the Traffik! She swam down the Mersey on the ebb tide from Mother Redcaps. Then went around the lighthouse at New Brighton into the mouth of the river and then on past Fort Perch Rock getting out behind Morrisons in New Brighton! The total distance was 2.7 km or 1 $\frac{11}{16}$ ths of a mile. The swim took 41 minutes!

In the photo, Sharon is the one in the green hat! Sharon would like to thank EVERYONE who has sponsored her. In total, she raised £300 for Stop the Traffik.

Well done Sharon, we are very proud of you and in awe of how brave you are to swim in the River Mersey.

www.stophetraffik.org



Karma Nirvana - Day of Memory - 14th July

Some members joined the event hosted by the charity Karma Nirvana to remember the victims who were killed by family and friends through Honour Based Violence and Forced Marriage. The event was online and hosted speakers who were siblings of the victims, their teachers and police officers involved in the cases. It was a very emotional event which had over 300 people join. Karma Nirvana support victims of Honour Based Abuse and Forced Marriage.

www.karmanirvana.org.uk

SIGBI Day of Action - 18th July

All members were encouraged to wear the Soroptimist colours of blue and yellow to mark the day, and also to join us at a Zoom photo. Those who could not join the Zoom were given the option to take their own photos which we could join together for the SIGBI's photo frame. The day was also used to raise the profile of our organisation.

<https://sigbi.org/2020/day-of-action/>



Specialist Domestic Violence Court (SDVC) - 25th July

At the end of July we gathered together on zoom with other SI groups to hear our very one Glenys give a talk about the Specialist Domestic Violence Courts in Liverpool. This was an invaluable talk to learn about this part of the Domestic Violence world, to hear about what people go through either as the victims or as staff members working the courts on these cases. Thank you Glenys for the time and effort you put in to this and for sharing your valuable knowledge.

Lynne's Walk for Alder Hey - 30th July



Congratulations to Lynne on completing her 250 mile walk, even with an ankle injury! Her walk was completed as follows: 218 miles by Lynne, 24 by Geoff and 8 from her friend Sue - a real team effort! Lynne walked in all weathers and walked her last mile in Calderstones Park. Lynnes grandchildren even joined in the event by supplying her mileage signs. Aurelia, Beth & Adam, Emily & Alex. Her '250' sign was sent from her two grandchildren in Amsterdam! Lynne wanted them involved as it's a children's charity. Lynne has raised £1027.50 for Alder Hey Hospital! Amazing! Well done Lynne, we are proud of you and how you never gave up! Lynne would like to thank everyone in SI Liverpool for their encouragement & support & their financial donations.

UN Day Against Human Trafficking - 30th July 2020

To mark this day, Annette produced a Human Trafficking package that was emailed to all members. This included video links, PowerPoint presentations, online reports, books and information on how to report and suspicions you may have. Human Trafficking is the fastest international growing crime and happens in all communities globally.



SI VJ Day - 15th August

This summer saw the celebration of Victory of Japan, VJ Day. Unlike the Together for VE Day, which was predominately celebratory, the VJ Day Together is more commemorative and sombre. We all received an incredibly informative document from Debra, with stories about The Changi Cross, Liverpool August 1945, Phillip Toosey, Saito at Toosey's Grave 1984, Harold Cottrell, 1939-1945 Star, Battle of Admin Box, The Burma Star, The Defence Medal, The War Medal, The Efficiency Medal, Yokohama War Cemetery, The Hiroshima Peace Memorial, Ann Clayton's visit to the Memorial, Nagasaki Peace Park, Hibakusha, and James Doyle. If you haven't had chance to read it then please make the time as it full of stories which we need to remember and pass on to the next generations. With special thanks to Lynne and Geoff, and Geoff's sister Pam for sharing their Dad's story. Thanks also to Ann Clayton.



Ayushi Event - 24th August

We joined with SI Chester, and SI Crosby and other SI groups to listen to Ayushi Kundi who is one of the Coordinators for the SI President's Appeal 2019-2021, 'The Road to Equality'. She is an advocate in the Calcutta High Court and kindly agreed to talk to us about the Appeal. The appeal strategically focuses on taking Action and Advocating on topics affecting women and girls, including Child Marriage, Female Genital Mutilation, Domestic Violence, Rights of Older Women, Migration, and Human Trafficking. It was a very informative talk highlights how serious these issues are and how much work there is to do to help and protect women and girls affected.

August Social - 26th August

An evening full of laughs as we got together to take part in a zoom quiz hosted by President Anne. We were put into three different groups and once we had gone through the questions/pictures we went into our breakout rooms where we discussed our answers (which all related to someone in the club!!) We even had a very interesting talk from Ann Clayton about some of our previous SI Presidents and a story about a woman who conned the Royal British Legion! A good night was had by all! Thank you Anne for arranging the quiz and for keeping our brains ticking over and for Ann for increasing our knowledge with some fun stories.



Urban GreenUP Survey

We have been kept up to date about what is happening to keep our environment and planet on the right track. Elaine sent us the article about fast-growing mini-forests springing up in Europe to aid climate. We were also invited to take part in a survey, for the research being done by William Gibb from Reading University. In addition, Emilia Roebuck from University of Liverpool sent us a questionnaire about how effective community-based engagement has been within the nature-based projects at Sefton Park as conducted by URBAN GREENUp. Participants have the opportunity to add their personal views on how engagement was conducted, with the chance to suggest improvements to community-based engagement that they wish to see in the future.

SI Liverpool Together

Debra has been putting together fabulous letters about Liverpool our local buildings and businesses, parks and also our local promenade! Other articles included song lyrics, beautiful photographs, stories of famous people from Merseyside including writers, and poets including our very own Dorothy Zach-Williams. Other articles included the story of an orchestra performing to an audience of plants.

Quizzes and Funnies

A huge thanks to Geraldine and her fellow Catonian member Paul, who have been keeping us entertained and out of mischief with their quizzes and funny images that have been sent out. They have definitely kept our brains working as well as a smile on our faces. Thank you also to Debra for consistently sending these out.

SI Chester team up

The club were delighted to welcome two members of SI Chester to our meeting on 22nd July and were joined by President Deborah and Anne McDonald, a former Regional President. The two clubs have agreed to work together and support each other with Programme Action centred on the work of Domestic Violence Courts. In return, members were invited by SI Chester to the talk they had arranged with Ayushi Kundi. Four club members attended their club meeting in September, where breakout groups worked on three of the six strands of International President Sharon's Appeal. Discussions and action plans were agreed on Human Trafficking, Child Marriage and Domestic Violence. It was a great opportunity to share ideas and understanding of the issues, as well as focus on future action.

Whitechapel Donations



President Anne and her team have been keeping many of us busy with buying cleaning goods, preparing buckets and packs then delivering them to the Whitechapel to help the men and women who are moving in to permanent homes in the city! To make their move nicer, these buckets and bags were a blessing to help them feel loved and thought of during this time. We have delivered 40 buckets of cleaning materials, 30 food store bags and 35 WoW bags as well as seven TVs, 18 suitcases and four sewing machines so far! Ann has also been given various bags of clothing.

The staff at the Whitechapel have asked Ann to pass on their sincere thanks for members generous donations. They were also delighted to receive an upright vacuum cleaner too. Four sewing machines were also donated and the women were over the moon to be given one each! There has been a request from the manager of Whitechapel for an electronic till for their family house! Anne is struggling with that one so if you know someone out there who has one to spare, then please let Anne know! Anne would like to Thank You all so much for your support! It really is making a difference! Thanks to all club members who have been so generous with their time and donations!

Afternoon Tea @ Three

Thanks to the beautiful weather this summer, we have been able to have six consecutive Friday Afternoon Tea @ Three gatherings. Three hosted by President Anne and three by Joan. Due to social distancing we couldn't sit as closely as we wanted and cakes, scones and sandwiches were provided in individual boxes. Thank you to everyone who attended as the total raised was over £342!



Guests at Joan's, enjoying the food, the chat and the sunshine!

SI Quilt - In progress

The SI Quilt is in the making with samples which have already been discussed. The next planning meeting is set for 05/10/2020. Thanks to Sharon who is keeping us all updated and leading on this project, there will be a lot more news and pictures to come from this topic. Watch this space!

Social Media Accounts

In addition to our Facebook page and Twitter account, we have now joined the world of Instagram. Instagram is focused on Images rather than text. You can image or a number of images for people to view, then you can write a caption or a passage about what the image represents or where you can get further on the topic, event etc. Since starting our Twitter account over a year ago, we now have 239 people following us, that means 239 people are learning about who we are and our Instagram which we set up a few months ago has 155 people following us! If social media, it is not only a great way to teach people about what we do but also what other Soroptimist Groups are doing all over the world for example, a group in made SI face masks, a group in Brazil made bags with bedding and clothes for babies in refuges, SI Barbados are hosting a 'Clearout for Charity' sale and SI have painted an SI 'Guernsey Together' Mural on one of the walls in their town.



Online Conference Promotion

Have you registered for the Soroptimist Virtual 2020 Conference yet?

When: 30 - 31 October 2020

Where: From the comfort of your own home.

Who: Fantastic Line up of speakers and entertainment

Speakers include:

Lady Hale is the most senior judge in the United Kingdom.

Dr Alison Gardner leads a global research programme which aims to contribute to the UN's sustainable development goal 8.7 of ending slavery and forced labour by 2030.

Jane Garvey is the presenter of BBC Radio 4's Woman's Hour.

Dr Sue Black OBE was recently named in the list of top 50 women in tech in Europe.

More information and register at www.sigbi.org/belfast2020



Wedding Anniversaries - Congratulations

Congratulations to two amazing couples, Norah and Ray, and also Mary and Ray who celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversaries recently. Love and best wishes from all at SI Liverpool. A fabulous achievement!



Dates for your Diary

12th September - Regional Meeting
23rd September - Club meeting - 6.30pm Speakers from The Whitechapel Centre
3rd October- Growth Plan Regional Meeting 10am. & Launch of the SI 100 Year Celebrations



October - Breast Cancer Awareness Month
3rd October - Launch of the SI 100 Year Celebrations
11th October - International day of the Girl Child
13 th October- Exec meeting 7.00pm
16th October - World Food Day
17th October - International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
18th October - Anti-Trafficking Day
21st October - Club Meeting - 6:30pm Focus on Membership
30-31 October - SIGBI Online Conference

11th November - Remembrance Day
25thth November - Club Meeting - 6:30pm Speaker Princess Park Trust
25th November - Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women & 16 Days of Action

1st December - World Aids Day
6th December- Club celebration of International Human Right's Day
10th December - Human Rights Day

2021:

12th January- Exec Meeting 7.00pm
20th January - Club Meeting - 6:30pm
22nd February - Fairtrade Fortnight
March - Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month
4th March - World Book Day
8th March - International Women's Day
22nd March - World Water Day

WE STAND UP
FOR WOMEN!