

Happy New Year

We survived 2020, that is definitely something to celebrate! Welcome to our first newsletter of 2021 and I pray you have a wonderful year full of health and blessings. Hope you enjoy the newsletter, Annette.



New Members

Our president had the brilliant idea of inviting our two new members, Raiya and Rocio to introduce themselves in this newsletter seeing as we are unable to meet face to face.

Introduction from Raiya:



Dear Sisters,

My name is Soraiya Farmouz, I'm known as Raiya. I officially joined the Liverpool Soroptimist Society in September 2020. It is both an honour and privilege to be a part of such a wonderful and inspiring organisation where one works together with likeminded individuals putting efforts and ideas together and improving the lives of many near and far.

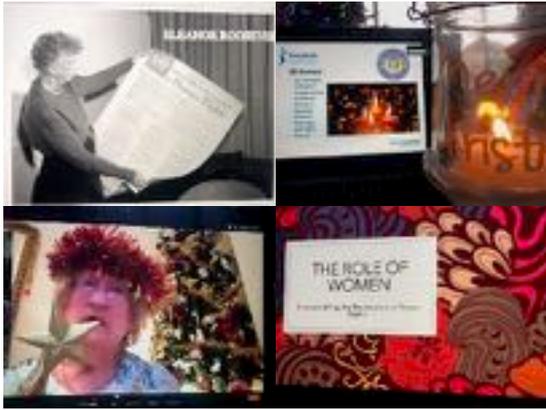
I was born and brought up in East Anglia and was very lucky to travel from a young age. My south Asian ancestry has taught me values of being grateful and proud of who I am, my religion and culture of where I hail from and duty to others. I was fortunate to witness and learn about the realities of wealth and poverty divides as well as class and caste differences both near and far. I have always felt there is much work at bay for all of us to help improve social and economic struggles of those less fortunate to us. I hope by joining this wonderful organisation, I will contribute my time and efforts to help the push the wheels for improvement and success in the lives of Women.

I moved to Liverpool in 2011 to study at Edge Hill University. I met my now husband here and decided to work in the Travel Industry, specialising in app development and customer success. In my spare time I enjoy long walks, swimming, reading and art. Since the pandemic came to life, I have devoted a lot of my free time to learning how to cook, home care and sewing. I hope in time I will meet Sisters from SI Liverpool and absorb positive energies and inspirations in aiding towards transforming the lives of others.



Hi, my name is Rocio. It is often said that it is difficult to talk about oneself; so true! At this stage of my life I feel I have already lived many lives, both professionally and personally. I am married to a wonderful man called Sam, we have no children but do have three wonderful "fur-kids" - a French bulldog and two very old and savvy cats. I have lived in several countries, and speak a few different languages, and I love learning new things. I have worked in sales, marketing and business management, and from there I became fascinated with the charity sector, going on to work, volunteer and even act as a Trustee at organisations like the Citizens Advice Bureau and Refugee Action. In my spare time, I teach languages to adults, and work as an interpreter and examiner for government organisations. I have been told I am not conventional, I defy injustice and protect the vulnerable when I can, I suppose that is what drew me to become a Soroptimist.

International Event & Virtual Christmas Celebration



Before the celebrations began we had our candlelight ceremony and a talk from Ann about 'Women Instrumental in Establishing the Declaration of Human Rights'

The event also included a fabulous Chocolate Bar Quiz, Sing a Long with Sarah Chidlow, a Christmas Poem and a Raffle.



Social Media Accounts

Our social media accounts have gone from strength to strength with our followers increasing all the time. The current numbers of followers are:

- On Instagram - 315 followers
- On Twitter - 285 followers
- On Facebook - 503 followers

Some stories from SI groups around the world:

SI Glamorgan decorated a Christmas Tree in the theme 'Orange the World' for the 16 days of activism event.

SI Dusseldorf all wore orange SI masks for their virtual meeting.

SI Baguio, Philippines have been supporting 'Women Urban Planters' with seeds and gardening equipment to help their project and the community.

SI Cornwall, a member knitted a beautiful blanket for a lady in a nursing home.



Craft Items

Sharon sent some pictures of craft items she has made and Icelandic jumpers that her mum has knitted.

If anyone is interested in any items she is happy to take them round. All proceeds to Stop the Traffik.

Donations

Debra delivered a cheque for £585 to South Liverpool Foodbank.

They asked her to pass on their thanks for all the support they have received from us throughout last year.

Debra also delivered baby jackets to the Women's hospital which were made by Maureen Walsh's friend Pat.

Annette delivered bags of food and Christmas goodies to St Helens Young Carers. Annette volunteered there back in 2002 -2003, and was where she started to learn all about Safeguarding.

Thank you for all your generous donations, whether they were financial or in goods, or through your craft skills.

Cake Sales

Thank you to Joan and her husband Dave who made and sold cakes for the Presidents Charity.



ONLY CONNECT...

Last autumn, President Anne received an email, out of the blue, enquiring if someone called Ann Clayton was a member of S.I. Liverpool. The enquirer was Dr Spike Boydeell, who had been one of Peter Clayton's students at the then Liverpool Polytechnic in the late 1970s; Spike and his wife had emigrated to Queensland, then Fiji, and finally to New South Wales where they now live, and had not been in touch with the Claytons since.

Spike had tried to contact Peter at his old address in Glendyke Road, only to find that the Claytons had moved in 2001. He even toured the house via Zoopla, and could tell that it was now occupied by a family with young children - in fact it has changed hands a few times since Ann & Pete left. Searching the internet for Pete's name didn't come up with very much, but searching for "Ann Clayton" threw up a few leads. Having a copy of Ann's book on Noel Chavasse, he contacted the publisher in Barnsley, who passed the message on in due course.

In the meantime, Spike also found Ann's name in connection with the Liverpool History Society; and finally, after what he describes as a "deep" online search (not on the "dark web" we hope!) there was a link to the *Soroptipool Times* of September 1916, which mentioned Ann & Pete's Golden Wedding Anniversary. So he was able to make contact with President Anne, who kindly forwarded his email to Ann C.

They are now in touch again after almost 40 years, and busy catching up with each other's news, thanks to the long arm of our very own *Soroptipool Times*...!

The Freedom Bus

Annette organised for the Freedom Bus to come to Liverpool with the aim of raising awareness of Human Trafficking and the Modern Slavery Helpline. Cllr A Rothery also came with the Young Lord Mayors to say a few words. The bus stopped at Anglican Cathedral, International Slavery Museum, Cunard Building, Town Hall and Liverpool Airport. It also stopped prime points around the city where the police identified as hot spots.



Programme Action

Programme Action is at the heart of Soroptimist International. At International, Federation, Regional and Local level we are asked to carry out projects around themes that will support women and girls.

Soroptimist International have five programme action areas: Economic empowerment. Education, Environmental Sustainability, Food Security and Healthcare, Violence and Conflict Resolution.

The above are also linked with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

We use the terms:

The 3 A's - Awareness, Advocacy and Action

The 3 E's - Education, Economic Empowerment and Environmental Sustainability

The 5 P's - People, Prosperity, Partnerships, Planet, Peace. (The 5 P's group the 17 UN SDGs)

The above are recorded on Programme Focus Report Forms (PFRF) which are used to inform The United Nations of our work.

Due to Covid-19 there have been many challenges to overcome to ensure our club continue with project work and support those in most need. President Anne's charities are Stop the Traffic and South Liverpool Domestic Abuse Service. The club have continued to support the South Liverpool Foodbank along with 'Women of Whitechapel' and the Whitechapel Centre for the homeless. While members have not been able to meet socially contact has been maintained via various technology outlets.

A positive outcome for many members is the opportunity to join, mainly via zoom, the various webinars from the UN, Soroptimist International's President Sharon Fisher and her project Road to Equality and links to other organisations.

This year members were able to join virtual meeting of the United Kingdom Programme Action Committee (UKPAC) prior to SIGBI Conference from Belfast to which a number of members registered.

Our club was presented with Best Practice Award for our project Urban GreenUp: Nature Based Solutions. A power point presentation was submitted for Conference and I gave the same at Regional meeting in December and President Anne presented our project with Friends of Princes Park (FOPP) in celebration of SI Centenary and planting of trees.

In her Christmas greetings President Anne thanked all members for their contribution in various forms to ensure programme action projects were continued and members were supported through lockdown periods.

Thank You Sue (Programme Action Officer)

Planting Trees

WHY ARE SI LIVERPOOL MEMBERS PLANTING TREES?

At our November Club meeting, Katy Gardner, of the 'Friends of Princes Park' (FoPP), gave a presentation about the history of the Park and told us that over the years this beautiful outside space had deteriorated. She explained how The 'Friends' were working on restoring the Park. Their efforts have been acknowledged by Liverpool City Council and some much larger construction projects had been taking place, including dredging and tennis courts.

The tree planting is our way to celebrate the first centenary of Soroptimists. We are going to raise our profile and at the same time, address climate change. We are going to keep SIGBI informed about our tree planting activities, and together with clubs all around the Federation, SIGBI will keep track of how many trees we are planting.

Our first planting will be of 100 trees in a designated area of Princes Park. Soroptimists have already been out to witness the designating and marking out of the area and look forward to the current lockdown ending when we can become involved in taking delivery of the young trees and hopefully, the planting.

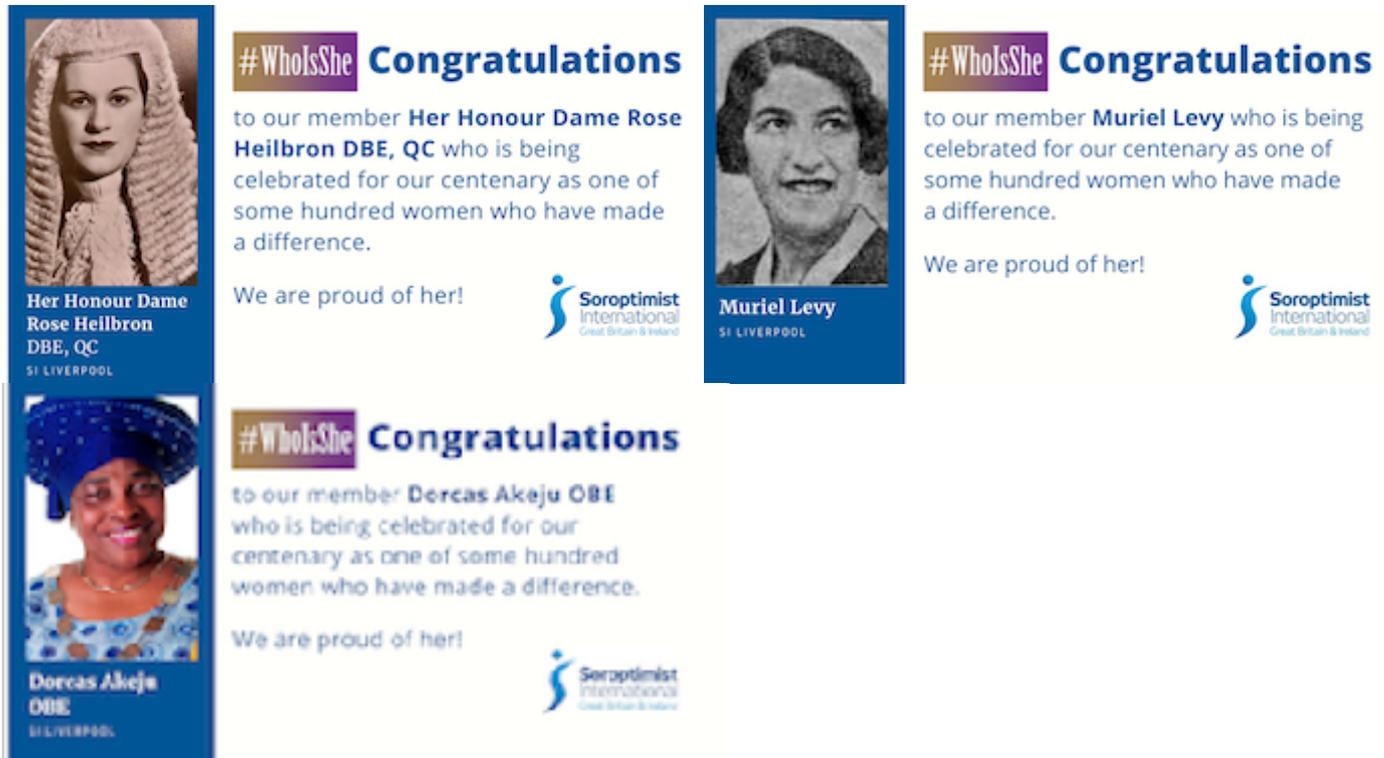
Before the latest lockdown, some members took part in a FoPP activity, which, along with eating some festive cakes, involved 'Wellie dancing'. Maxine, our tutor, explained that the wellie, or gum boot dance movements originated from the South African miners who made their own boots from gum and used all the slapping around, tapping and rhythms, to communicate secretly with their fellow workers. Here are the experts: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gj7Y2Mq6jvl>

And our photos show our members efforts!



SIGBI Centenary

Three of our members have been selected for the #WholsShe centenary celebration. Dorcas Akeju MBE, Her Honour Dame Rose Heilbron DEB, QC, and Muriel Levy. Congratulations!! They will all be celebrated on social media for the world to see! Go to the SIGBI website to read the full article about each one.



#WholsShe Congratulations
to our member **Her Honour Dame Rose Heilbron DBE, QC** who is being celebrated for our centenary as one of some hundred women who have made a difference.
We are proud of her!

#WholsShe Congratulations
to our member **Muriel Levy** who is being celebrated for our centenary as one of some hundred women who have made a difference.
We are proud of her!

#WholsShe Congratulations
to our member **Dorcas Akeju OBE** who is being celebrated for our centenary as one of some hundred women who have made a difference.
We are proud of her!

Dates for your Diary:

27th January - Club Meeting - 7:00pm

February

8th February -Exec meeting 7.00pm

24th February - Club Meeting - 7:00pm

March

6th March - Regional PAC (am) Council (pm) Leigh

8th March - International Women's Day

8th-Exec meeting 2.30pm

24th March - Club Meeting - 7:00pm

April

12th April - 12th-Exec meeting 7.00 pm

28th April - Club Meeting AGM - 7:00pm

May

26th May - Club Meeting - 7:00pm

Women inspiring action,
transforming lives

Website: www.sigbi.org/liverpool
Facebook: facebook.com/LiverpoolSoroptimist
Twitter: @liverpool_si
Instagram: [liverpool_si](https://www.instagram.com/liverpool_si)