



Soroptimist
International

Nottingham

Club Newsletter

April 2021

Programme Action Report

What a spectacular April we have had for Programme Action!

The plan for our First project came into fruition over the 3 days of 16th, 17th and 23rd April. David Rose and his team at Farm Eco, Screveton prepared the ground with manure, mulch, with coffee grounds and tea from the cafe over the winter months and Rachel Richards our Forest designer mapped out the specific order of the trees. The first two days were devoted to planting the tree saplings and the third day the shrubs went into place. Our Forest and unveiling a plaque to 100 years of Soroptimism was carried out officially by The Mayor of Rushcliffe Borough Council Cllr Mallender and we had a reporter from Notts TV to report on our activities and the report was aired on Wednesday 28th at 5.15pm. We've planted over 450 trees and shrubs consisting of: Oak, Wild Rose, Rowan, Hornbeam, Wild Cherry, Field Maple, Aspen, Wild Garlic, Comfrey, Red clover, Foxgloves, Bluebells as well as others.

Rachel Richards who is a 're-wilder' designed the forest based on the methods of two botanists mainly the method of Akira Miyawaki (a Japanese botanist) who is working intensively with countries to increase growth of trees in degraded land and the Swedish botanist Ernst Gotsch; in the Miyawaki method used the trees and plants are covered with straw and manure. Gotsch's 'Syntropic Forest' Methods however differ slightly in that all fertilisers should be natural to the area and each plant cocooned in a created nest. Each tree/ plant roots are wrapped in sheep's fleece, planted and then watered with a mixture of water and milk creating a probiotic climate for the roots to thrive. Once everything was planted, the whole area was covered in fleece. So the mound is almost like a little sauna for biodiversity! Berry plants have been planted around the outside so they will be easy for foraging. It was an amazing feeling to see so many Soroptimist's working together and chatting face to face (socially distanced of course!) The weather was beautiful so some of us even managed to get a sun tan.

Below are links to some short films you might to view about the Syntropic botanists work

<https://www.google.co.uk/amp/s/news.mongabay.com/2020/07/in-syntropic-agriculture-farmers-stop-fighting-nature-and-learn-to-embrace-it/amp/>

Miyawaki <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=15jtg2q1gn>



Soroptimists at work



Other Programme Action News

- Barbara H had a friend who was very kindly donating 30 camping chairs from the boat club, 10 chairs were distributed to WeRHere and the other 20 went to two refugees.
- Lisa volunteered to make a short film for membership month on behalf of region consisting of 6 interviews of members with various length of service from SI Nottingham and SI Mansfield which hopefully we'll get to see next meeting. Hopefully SIGBI will run it on the website during May.

Lisa

Lynda reports on the UKPAC Study Day 17th April 21

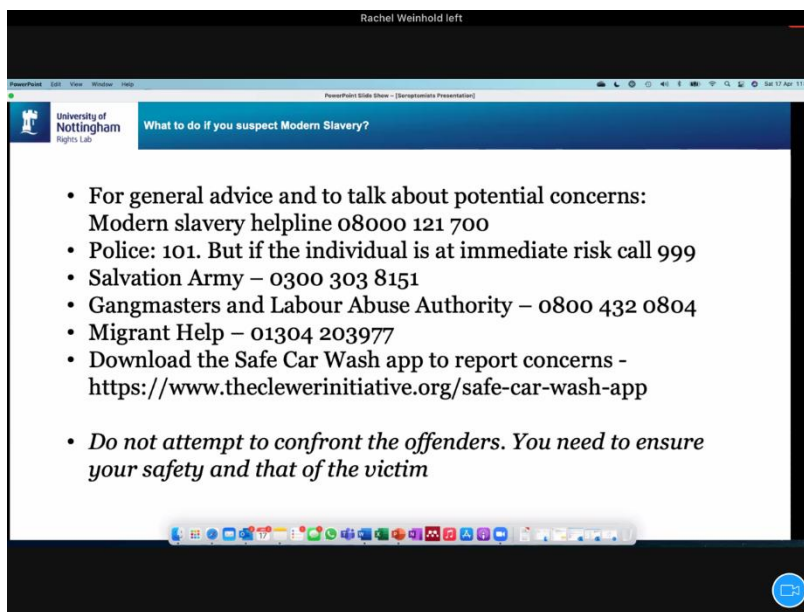
In light of the Duke of Edinburgh's funeral on the same day, the afternoon session was postponed to July 3rd.

The morning session centred around Modern Day Slavery and had guest speakers:

Dame Sara Thornton, the UK's Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner and

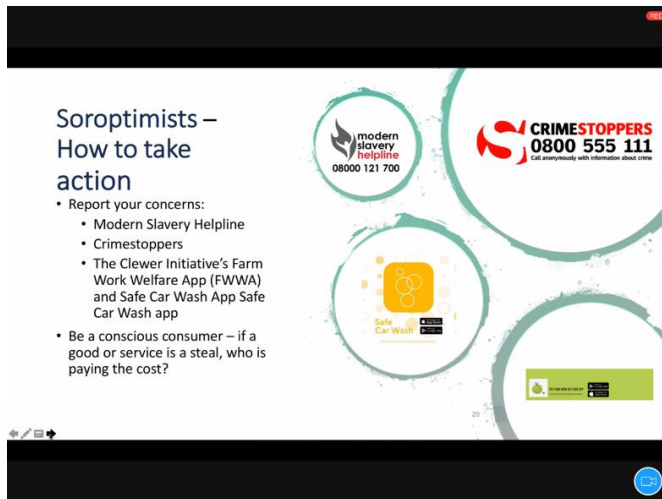
Dr Ben Brewster and Dr Phil Northall of The University of Nottingham's Rights Lab

Dame Sara explored the many faces of modern-day slavery ranging from criminal behaviour, domestic servitude and forced labour through to sexual exploitation.



She explained that the 'political' term of 'modern slavery' can sometimes focus attention on a few exceptional cases and thereby ends up tacitly legitimating, or at least de-prioritising, everyday abuses and systems. Our economy thrives on e.g. cheap clothing, cheap food, cheap car washes. She wants to see companies and financial institutions going the extra mile, not just

publishing a modern slavery statement and thinking 'job done'. Minimal compliance is not enough. She urged Soroptimists to be conscious consumers and to ask questions and report when we see something suspicious or something which makes us uneasy.



Drs Ben and Phil highlighted some of the modern slavery cases to be prosecuted in the Nottingham area recently, including car wash workers living in vans and shipping containers; a trafficking gang using 'pop up' brothels; County lines exploitation of young vulnerable children and a greetings card slave worker kept in a loft. They gave us info on who and how to contact to and report concerns (see left) and

highlighted ways in which the community at large can be empowered to fight this problem.

They showed a video which was aimed at young people to raise awareness of how to resist being drawn into a County Lines scenario. Several Sorops mused afterwards whether we could lobby for this to be shown in our local secondary school? Their full presentation can be found on www.youtube.com/watch?v=qzaKJ5vjFow.

The video on county-lines begins at approx 23 mins. It was a very informative and thoughtful morning

Monday 17 May. Getting to know you talk by Barbara H.. Club Business
Monday 7 June. A talk on the Role of the Federation Councillor
Monday 21 June Programme Action: Speaker David Rose of FarmEco

Dates for your diary

And Finally

I think we should all thank the Tree Planting project leaders for their inspiration, perseverance, and hard work to bring this project to fruition.

This picture below shows Rachel being presented by Lisa and Sue MacF with a Garden token as a thank you for all her (unpaid) work.



Audrey