For next week’s Mercury together with a photo

**YOU`RE A WHAT?**

You may well ask because **SOROPTIMIST** doesn’t exactly roll off the tongue, does it? Loosely translated from Latin it is a coined term; soror meaning sister and optima meaning best, or `best for women` . Still confused? Think Rotary for women, (everyone has heard of Rotary Clubs haven’t they), or even modern day Suffragettes. There are **SOROPTIMIST** clubs in 65 countries around the world. We are all like minded women who have a passion for trying to improve the lives of women and girls throughout the world, and not just in the third world but here in Weston. Did you know that you will find **SOROPTIMIST l**adies helping out in the Fragrance Garden in Grove Park, the Lifeboat Shop, The Hospital Shop, Schools, the Magistrates Court, Talking News, the Food Bank, the Museum, the Abused Women`s Shelter, and making Teas for the Elderly. Oh yes, I forgot to mention that whatever we are doing you can bet your life there will be food or drink involved!

Back to **`YOU`RE A WHAT`?** This is the first question that people ask us, and it’s usually followed by `you`re a chiropodist`? No, we have absolutely nothing to do with feet!

If you happened to be shopping in the High Street last Monday, you just may have seen us with our banner handing out leaflets – what do you mean, you didn’t take one! We were publicising the fact that last Monday happened to be the Day of the African Child. 250 girls have been abducted in Nigeria, and most are still missing. This is a common occurrence in Nigeria by the Islamist group Boko Haram,who launch raids across the border, and girls are frightened to attend school there. We are petitioning world leaders and international organizations and trying to put pressure on the government here and in Nigeria to support all efforts to ensure the girls safe return. We would like to ensure that all schools in Africa are safe places to learn. This is just one of the issues that we care passionately about.

Now ladies, does this appeal to you? Do you enjoy meeting and enjoying the company of like minded women?. Do you enjoy listening to fascinating speakers, or travelling both in this country and abroad. Maybe your children have left for university or are married, and you are looking for something to become involved in? Come and talk to us, have a coffee, or something stronger, and hear about what we do. You will be made very welcome.

Just Google **SOROPTIMIST** and follow the contacts to our WSM web page.

Keep reading the Mercury as there will be more news of your **WESTON SOROPTIMIST CLUB** very soon.