Celebrating a Century of Soroptimist Achievements #Whoisshe?

Monday 24 August, 2020

October 2021 will mark one hundred years of Soroptimist International with the 100th anniversary of the chartering of the very first Soroptimist Club in Oakland, California, USA. The centenary of the organisation seemed a fitting opportunity to recognise and celebrate the professional and personal commitments made by outstanding members of the organisation through the years.

Each month from September 2020 the pen portraits and photographs of a dozen members will be featured on the Great Britain and Ireland Centenary website. These #Whoisshe? campaign members, both past and present, from Soroptimist International of Great Britain and Ireland have all been nominated by Soroptimist Clubs for their noteworthy contribution to society in the furtherance of the aims and objects of the organisation. In their personal, professional and public lives they have each in their own way sought to inspire action and transform the lives of women and girls – a reason for celebration indeed!

The list ranges through women in all professions and walks of life: from judges, doctors, teachers, lawyers, architects to sportswomen, many of those in their day pioneers in their chosen field and even now, many of them challenging the boundaries to make the world a better place for women.

Federation President Isobel Smith said: “It has been both inspiring and humbling to hear the stories of these members, who are leaders and trailblazers of both past and present. It is fitting on this great anniversary for us to celebrate the achievements and commitment of the women who join our organisation to make a difference to the world and to improve the lives and experiences of women and girls.”

See September's winners here

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#WhoIsShe

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Notes to Editors

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1. Web addresses:

www.sigbi.org

www.soroptimistinternational.org

Soroptimist International is a leading global women's voluntary organisation. It has close to 80,000 members in more than 3,000 Clubs in over 100 countries around the world. The Federation of Soroptimist International Great Britain and Ireland (SIGBI) has members in more than 270 clubs in 18 countries in the British Isles, Asia, the Caribbean and Malta.

Soroptimists **inspire action** and create opportunities to **transform** the lives of women and girls through a global network of members and international partnerships. Soroptimists are committed to a world where women and girls together achieve their individual and collective potential, **realise aspirations** and have an **equal voice**
in creating strong and **peaceful** communities worldwide.

1. Soroptimists focus on transforming the lives of women and girls, locally, nationally and globally, through **education, empowerment and enabling** initiatives by raising **Awareness, Advocacy and Action**. Soroptimists make a difference to the lives of more than half a million women and girls in the world every year.

1. Soroptimist International Great Britain & Ireland is an organisation in Special Consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council since July 2013, which is in addition to the General Consultative status held by the umbrella organisation Soroptimist International. Soroptimist International is a recognised Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) representing women from all over the world.

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