

August 2016

As we head into August many will be thinking of holidays, short breaks or having the children or grandchildren for a few weeks.

For many July will have seen the writing of annual Soroptimist reports and for the Programme Team we will be looking at the work done over the last 12 months to select nominations for the best practice awards at Conference.

July was definitely a Soroptimist month for me – the first week-end saw me at the Manchester development day. It was well attended and well received – there was such enthusiasm amongst the attendees.

Straight from the development day to a very enjoyable evening reception to celebrate the wedding of Assistant Programme Director Laura Redhead- now Longman- she was a beautiful bride and it was a lovely event.



The following weekend I attended the UK Programme Action Committee (UKPAC) study day which was excellent, as usual. The keynote speakers delivered inspirational presentations on Anti-Trafficking and the Prison Reform Trust. UK Soroptimists are delighted that the new Prime Minister, Theresa May, has set up a new taskforce to coordinate government response to modern slavery. Breakout sessions covered many

issues and were thoroughly enjoyed by all. Full details are given in the [UKPAC July Newsletter](#).

The next weekend was back to London for the Federation Management Board (FMB) meeting, probably the hottest weekend of the year so far. Much work was covered, but the heat meant that we all felt very weary by the time we left on Sunday.

Last weekend I hosted a garden party for the [Meru Women's Garden Project](#) (see pictures below)- Club Members enjoyed afternoon tea and cakes, purchased items from our craft stall and tried their luck on the tombola, treasure hunt and raffle. The event was one of many being held that week to mark the [Soroptimist Day of Action](#) for the Federation project. Our small effort made £358.00 so let us hope other events had similar success.



We were joined by my niece Lynne, who became an Associate Member earlier this year- she did want to be a full member, but she is so keen to be part of the organisation she decided to become an Associate until circumstances allowed her to become a full Member.

I managed to fit in some academic work between Soroptimism this last week, travelling back to London and on to Liverpool and Manchester , but that meant three full days on the computer dealing with outstanding e-mails and reports- hard work but enjoyable.

Final preparations are being made for the Programme Action section of the Conference in Malta and I look forward to seeing many of you there to celebrate our work and energise our efforts.

Barbara Dixon
Federation Programme Director