

## SIGBI Programme Director's Blog April 2018

In my last blog I outlined all the events that can take place in March, and for several of us that centred around going to New York to attend the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 62).

Just before I left I was delighted to learn that SIGBI has managed to retain its special consultative status with ECOSOC – the application was sent in last year and it seems to have been a long wait for the result, but obviously we are delighted.



CSW was inspiring and exhausting as usual, but due to the hard work of our delegation in conjunction with the representatives of our respective Governments we finally got Agreed Conclusions on the primary theme of “Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls.” Six years ago no conclusions were reached so this is indeed a step forward.



As we move into the second quarter of the year we are looking at representation at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting to be held in London in April. Potential delegates are awaiting confirmation to attend as I write.



On a personal level I shall be travelling to Kenya to visit the Meru Women's Garden Project, our Federation project. Whilst there we will be able to witness the work that our donations have enabled, and we will also attend the graduation of our first tranche of “students”. I am looking forward to reporting back on this, although I have not enjoyed the plethora of inoculations necessary for travel!

Shortly after that I will be attending the SI Future Africa Federation Conference – a last minute decision, but also something I am looking forward to as the programme seems excellent.

That will take care of April and in May I hope to have a little down time in Greece – naturally I will still be dealing with the daily e-mails and Soroptimist business but it will be in warmer surroundings and perhaps with a little liquid refreshment to help me along.

As many clubs will be starting a “New Year” I wish you all well in your forthcoming projects, be happy in your clubs and enjoy the friendship our wonderful organisation offers.

Barbara Dixon  
Programme Director