

SI CANTERBURY PROGRAMME ACTION

AGM REPORT APRIL 2016-APRIL 2017

1. At the start of the year there were six ongoing PA projects, most of which have continued during the year:
 - **Meru Women's Garden Project** (led by Carol Townsend) The Meru team have had a successful year and raised more than £5000 through the Abba concert, barn dance and Pamper Day. The project has been selected as one of Canterbury Cathedral's charities and funds will be raised at their Open Garden event.
 - **Domestic Abuse** (led by Liz Hartley) The DA team have also been successful and support for the weekly One Stop cafe continues as well as occasional service for the Canterbury Refuge. Plans are being made in partnership with the Gulbenkian theatre for large scale awareness events to coincide with the United Nations 16 Days of Activism to eliminate violence against women.
 - **Canterbury Foodbank** (led by Maureen Keppler) Although the financial donations have reduced with changes in membership, direct service such as bucket collections and warehouse sorting has been extended. Two Foodbank volunteers are now members of the club.
 - **Encouraging Primary Literacy** (led by Carol Salter, succeeded by Carol Townsend) The primary school has not asked for any more support and the team is currently in abeyance. Funds were raised at a coffee morning which are being held for future use.
 - **Reducing Women's Imprisonment** (led by Nancy Burroughs) The support for probation women offender's groups has ended and PA service, such as lobbying the local Community Rehabilitation Company, is conducted on an ad hoc basis.
 - **Lobbying** (led by Mia Power and Millie Brierley) Personal circumstances led to this work being intermittent. It is hoped that the interest of new members, together with learning from SI Beckenham and the interest of new members, will result in more regular lobbying. This year we have lobbied the UK government, overseas governments and the United Nations to promote issues concerning women generally and individually. Most issues were identified by SIGBI and we responded to their requests.
2. By the end of the year the growth in club membership meant that the number of ongoing PA teams has increased with the addition of:
 - **Save the Children** (led by Carol Reed) The club decided to resume its ongoing support for StheC fundraising events and, though some members attended, no one has joined the committee. £4,000 was donated from the proceeds of the Abba concert.
 - **Modern Day Slavery/Trafficking** (led by Jane Webb) Ten members have joined this team. They are currently gathering information with a view to public awareness raising events and ongoing collections for the Medaille Trust's safe house. An

awareness event was successfully arranged at the request of the Kent Anti Slavery Partnership.

- **Amnesty International** (lead to be appointed) The club's first Partnership Agreement has been signed with Amnesty International Canterbury and we have started to support their monthly letter writing campaign.
 - **Target Ovarian Cancer** (led by Susan Booth) Money was raised at a coffee morning and plans are being made to support the charity more extensively in 2017/18.
 - **Reducing Older People's Isolation** (lead to be appointed)
3. Additionally the club raised funds for Macmillan and Breakthrough for Breast Cancer
 4. Programme Focus forms are the mechanism by which our Programme Action service is reported to SIGBI and becomes the evidence for SI's continuing consultative status at the UN. Our PF forms are the responsibility of each PA team. 27 forms have been completed this year, with four outstanding, which is eight more than 2016/17 and 12 more than 2015/16.
 5. Just as importantly is the fact that most club members, including all those who joined the club this year, are actively involved in at least one PA project.
 6. In the coming year it is anticipated that the club's PA service will go from strength to strength and we will make an increasing difference to the lives of women and girls, locally, nationally and internationally. I hope that my successor, supported by all the PA teams, will extend and develop more partnership agreements in order to learn more about our partners, make the best use of our time and skills as well as raising awareness of Soroptimism.

Jane Webb

Programme Action Officer

April 2017