**Learning Opportunities – Janet Hodgson**

Although the number of reports received was less this year the standard of reporting is much better.

In July I had received 417 Learning Opportunities reports. However, when I went into the database this last week I could only find 193 so not sure where the others have gone. I don’t know what my colleagues on the programme team have found.

I try to use “my Page” which I hope you read for two reasons. One is to try to keep you up to date with anything that is happening via the UN and also I like each month to mention various clubs that have put forward an interesting project. So you never know you might be mentioned.

I am delighted with the way clubs are using the International Day of Literacy and World Book Day. Reading is not a privilege it is a right and you have helped many children to improve their reading. Clubs in India have started a mobile library. SI Cork is supplying books in deprived areas.

It is good to see that clubs are not just staying with providing books. They are also supporting the expressive arts with speech and drama festivals, painting competitions and of course I must talk about the fantastic joint Irish project of their public speaking contest which has now been running for nearly 30 years. Other regions and clubs are also having public speaking competitions my own region SI Midland Arden and also SI King’s Lynn from London Anglia region.

Congratulations to SI Port Louis on maintaining the Flamboyant Education Centre which has increased the number of pupils and is expanding into primary education.

According to the UN there is a shortage of 18,000,000 teachers. In Nigeria and in India they are training teachers.

Clubs are working with Girl Guides, young carers and people with impaired sight to help them increase their education. Skirting Science is gaining support with many more clubs taking part.

There is a lot going on and I would ask you to complete the focus forms as comprehensively as possible. Please add pictures .

Thank you