

## SI GLASGOW CITY

### Programme Action Update January 2016

#### **TOMORROW'S WOMEN**

The sewing machine and other Christmas presents were taken to Tomorrow's Women on 10<sup>th</sup> December by Beth.



#### **VISION AFRICA**

Read about Vision Africa at [www.visionafrica.org](http://www.visionafrica.org)

#### **HOT TOPICS**

### **Mary's Meals**

Mary's Meals is a charity which we have supported in the past. It works in some of the World's poorest areas to help children receive education and one meal a day.

Those of you who attended the Glasgow Federation Conference in November will remember that we were encouraged to fill our conference bags with the items needed for a child to attend school, and donate these to Mary's Meals.

There is to be a collection of back packs at the next Region Meeting on 5 March, but bags can be donated at any time. If any club members wish to make 'back pack' donations they may bring along their filled conference bags or back packs, to any club meeting over the next year, and the PA Committee will arrange for them to be delivered to Mary's Meals.

Packs should contain the following items: notepad, pens, pencils, crayons, eraser, ruler, sharpener, pencil cases, towel, shorts or skirt, t-shirt or dress, flip-flops or sandals, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, small ball, spoon.

#### **Handy Hints**

Clothing for children aged between 4-12 years is suitable.

Second-hand items are fine if they are in good condition.

Please label your backpack to indicate whether it is suitable for a boy or girl, and suggest what age. Please don't include any liquids (including liquid soap) and don't be tempted to add any other gifts such as toys or sweets, as these can cause problems with Customs during delivery.

For further information see the Mary's Meals website <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk> **tween 4-12 years is suitable.**

## RE-CYCLING

**\*Used spectacles:** please no cases. Assessed & graded by vision science undergraduates at Glasgow Caledonian University. Suitable spectacles are refurbished for re-use out of UK.

**\*Old Mobile phones:** sent to CHAS recycling centre.

**\*Empty Ink Cartridges:** not Epson, sent to CHAS recycling centre.

**Used bras:** wash and label with size. Recycled via Oxfam. Pat Campbell takes bras to Oxfam.

**Milk bottle tops:** washed red, green or blue tops. Susan Middleton collects.

**Used Stamps:** Please leave 0.5cm margin around stamp. Susan Middleton collects.

\* Liz Jamieson collects

## USEFUL WEBPAGES

SIGBI Programme Action Magazine. Published monthly and available via <http://sigbi.org/what-we-do/programme-action-magazine-pam/>

Scottish Refugee Council [www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk)

Global Voice published monthly and available via <http://sigbi.org/global-voice-newsletter>

Marie Curie cancer care [www.mariecurie.org.uk/what-we-do/marie-curie-scotland](http://www.mariecurie.org.uk/what-we-do/marie-curie-scotland)

Water Aid [www.wateraid.org](http://www.wateraid.org)

Fair Trade [www.fairtrade.org](http://www.fairtrade.org)

Handicap International [www.handicap-international.org.uk](http://www.handicap-international.org.uk)

Book Aid [www.bookaid.org.uk](http://www.bookaid.org.uk)

UN sustainable Goals <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu>

## Not for Us Not for our Neighbours

I attended a meeting on 25 November 2015 which was organised by the Scottish Episcopal Church's Development Team for Imaginative Outreach in Local Communities, and to which local Soroptimists were invited.

A speaker from '28toomany' spoke on FGM in Africa. (28 is the number of African countries where FGM is still practiced). The talk was very informative. I did not realise the huge number of women and girls affected. (91.5 million women in Africa living with FGM), and how widespread it is, even in 'modern' countries such as Australia and the USA, as well as in Europe. Even today 3000 girls are at risk of being cut in Scotland. She also said that until the 1950's 'female circumcision' was practiced in some parts of the Western world as a treatment for hysteria, lesbianism, masturbation and hysteria. We also saw some horrific diagrams of the different forms of cutting.

The second speaker, a 'Women's Aid' worker from East Dunbartonshire, spoke about the effect of domestic violence on the children in the family. She stressed that even if parents think children are unaware of what is going on, this is not usually the case.

This can result in psychological, emotional and behavioural problems in the children, and the group works with individual children to help them. They also give children opportunities to enjoy activities and days out, and – what I thought was a nice idea – they give them grants to refurbish their rooms if they are forced to abandon their home and possessions.

Beth Diamond