**SI LONDON CHILTERNS REGION**

**Regional Meeting – Saturday 11th March 2017**

**Presidents Report**

Since the last Regional meeting on 10th December 2016, I have visited some of the clubs in the region. On Thursday 2nd February 2017, President Anne warmly welcomed me to SI Greater London, when I joined their club meeting at our residential club at Number 63. We had a good discussion about the challenge of recruiting and retaining new members and shared ideas on what works well and not so well.

On Wednesday 15th February, I was delighted to attend a club meeting at SI Oxford and District. There was a fascinating talk about domestic abuse and the Oxford Sexual Abuse Referral Scheme as well as really interesting updates on the various projects and programme action activity at club level.

On Tuesday 21st February, it was a pleasure to be made welcome at SI Thames Valley club at one of their business meetings and particularly to hear about their plans for the opening of the Sandy Raffan Memorial Library in Kori and the logistics involved in arranging their next consignment of donated goods to the area planned for later in the year.

I have a number of other club visits and social events arranged over the coming months. I am finding it really interesting meeting club members and hearing the work taking place across our region and understanding the specific challenges facing the clubs locally.

My confirmed schedule so far is:

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| Date  | Club | Confirmation Status |
| Sunday 2nd April | SI St Albans and District – Diamond charter social | Confirmed |
| Thursday 6th April  | SI Newbury | Confirmed |
| Thursday 13th April | SI Lewisham and SE London | Confirmed |
| Monday 24th April | SI St Albans and District AGM | Confirmed |
| Tuesday 25th April  | SI Milton Keynes | TBC |
| Sunday 30th April | SI Newbury Charter Lunch | Confirmed |
| Friday 12th May | SI Central and SW London Drinks reception | Confirmed |
| TBC | SI Aylesbury and District | Waiting dates for next year |
| TBC  | SI Hertford and District | Waiting for Jean Tarling to come back with dates |
| TBC | SI Slough, Windsor And Maidenhead | Waiting for dates |

I also attended my own club meeting on 10th January – at which we welcomed Helen Byrne (Regional Membership Officer) who came to talk to us about membership and club rejuvenation. We were also delighted to be joined by 2 potential new members both of whom have joined. On Friday 3rd February I met Daphne Dowsing, Regional President of SI South West and Channel Islands for dinner – as she was staying in London the evening before the incoming presidents workshop and we were able to share notes about how our year is going and our plans going forward.

On 7th March I attended the North Manchester Trefoil Guild, along with 3 members from SI Ashton Under Lyne in South Lancashire Region to talk to them about being a Soroptimist and ways they could support our work. There were 15 members of the Trefoil Guild present and we had some really good feedback about this talk and several of them followed up about various projects after the talk. The ladies from SI Ashton Under Lyne enjoyed the evening and found it informative too.

Finally, as part of my individual commitment to be ACTIVE in support of the More Smiles Appeal, I have signed up to do a sponsored abseil down a 10-storey building on 26th April and to do a sponsored 5 mile walk on 9th July in collaboration with Imperial College Healthcare Charity. The link to my Just Giving page will be sent out as part of this update ([www.justgiving.com/Jen-simpson2)](http://www.justgiving.com/Jen-simpson2%29) in case any club members would like to sponsor me.

Jen Simpson

11th March 2017

Distributed to clubs via Regional Secretary after the meeting

Cc: Jane Slatter for Regional Website