



Midland Arden Regional Programme Action Report March 2016

UKPAC

The next meeting of UKPAC will be held on Sat April 9th at the Ramada Hotel, Solihull. Anyone is welcome to attend as a silent observer at a cost of £25.

Please let me know by Mon March 21st if you would like to attend. The meetings help to understand how Programme is carried out around the country and how it will progress forward.

Forms for club to complete have been sent out and should be returned to me by Mon 14th March so that I can write our regional report.

UKPAC Study Day

This will take place on Saturday 9th July at the Aztec Hotel Bristol. Cost £70. Keynote speakers include Kevin Hyland, Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner.

Bookings can now be made via the SIGBI website.

The UKPAC website has now moved to www.sigbi.org/UKPAC

SIGBI MERU WOMEN'S GARDEN PROJECT

This will be launched on March 8th a website is now available www.meruwomen.org and you can sign up for e newsletters. SIGBI is proposing a Day of Action on Wed 20th July so get your thinking caps on!

Region is also looking for a Project Ambassador. Application forms have been sent out and should be returned to Rose at petehutch1959@btinternet.com by Monday March 14th in order that we can take a vote at the meeting on March 19th.

PROGRAMME FOCUS REPORT FORMS

The new reporting database for SIGBI only is now available. It is accessed via the members' area of the SIGBI website and the members' directory.

There is a downloadable guide on the site which has very helpful information on how to complete the form and also an excellent article in the February Soroptimist News.

You can now add documents as well as photographs to the form but please note photographs should be in landscape format.

The approval time is now much shorter as the form has only to be agreed by SIGBI and should take about one week.

The database is now accessible for all members so if a project has been carried out and one club member has more working knowledge of it than the PA Officer they can fill in the form themselves. You can also search the database and read what others have been doing using the Directory Search button and then choose the Search Project tab. You can search for reports under the new objectives or using key words. If you are unsure how to complete the forms these make excellent examples as they have already been approved.

If you need any more help with the forms please get in touch with me.

CRICKET WITHOUT BOUNDARIES

It was good to see so many of you at the showing of Warriors, an excellent film about the Massai cricket warriors helping to stop FGM in Kenya.

The speaker from the Cricket Without Boundaries charity has been booked for our Regional Study Workshop on Sat September 17th.

REGIONAL SUPPORT MEETINGS

Thanks to all of those who attended the two support meetings. The feedback has been very positive and I enjoyed meeting with you. Members from 11 of our 12 regional clubs attended one or other meeting.

The general points covered are in the above report but we also looked at the UN Sustainable Development Goals 2015 - 2030 and how they fit in with our SI Goals and objectives. SI Kenilworth has shared with us a matrix that they now use to ensure that their work meets with the SI goals.

We also discussed meeting again as a group but felt that prior to a regional meeting would not give us enough time and would be difficult at the AGM. It was agreed that I would take forward to ROC the proposal that we meet on a Saturday morning.

We also looked at how best to share our programme work and all felt that this would be a good use of the regional website where clubs could post upcoming activities, speakers and events. As clubs in some parts of the region are quite close together we also talked about inter club working for larger projects giving more impact e.g. Skirting Science and SI Worcester and SI Kidderminster are looking at a project based on STEM subjects.

Reminders of how to access PAM magazine and the Programme Directors monthly report were given.

At our last regional meeting I sent out leaflets regarding recycling of jewelry, stamps, phones etc. to raise money for the Diamond Education Fund. At the same time SI Kenilworth launched exactly the same recycling for their Malawi Project. ROC has decided that **ALL** money raised will go to SI Kenilworth and they will collect items at each regional meeting.

Regional Programme Action Officer
Rose Hutchinson