

## President Lynne's message

### Educate to Empower and Enable



It's not been the kindest of months with the ongoing war in Ukraine and the awful earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. SI Eastbourne and District have a friendship link club in Turkey, SI Karşiyaki. Fortunately they are not in the earthquake zone but are helping with humanitarian aid to the victims. They have appreciated our messages of support and fundraising for this tragedy. It's good to know that we can support our sisters in other countries through the Soroptimist network.

On a more positive note, The Girls' Network is starting to roll out virtual mentoring for women who may want to offer support to a girl to achieve her potential [see page 02]. This is a welcome development for potential mentors who do not have a school or college nearby currently participating in the TGN mentoring programme. Training for mentors is also delivered online. Although it does not quite replicate the personal meeting up with a mentee, it does work well and offers greater flexibility for busy mentors.

I am delighted to say we are just over half way to our funding target for our Regional Project to give book awards to girls completing their TGN programme. Thanks to everyone who has helped with this. We have had several books suggested for the gift and after much consultation, have chosen a book entitled "You Can Change the World" by Margaret Rooke. This is an inspirational book which contains 50 stories of teenagers who have made a real difference.

We shall now have to think about the design for a bookplate to go inside saying that it is given by SISEE for completing the TGN programme. I would very much welcome design suggestions from members.

Looking forward to seeing you at Region on March 18 and hearing Annette Davies give an illustrated update on the amazing work of Mary's Meals, and also hearing Gillie O'Rourke talk about "The Mysteries and Magic of Programme Action" and the work of UKPAC. Don't forget to wear something purple for IWD.

LYNNE CHISWICK, SEE REGION PRESIDENT

## What's in this month's newsletter?

Welcome to  
**A PEACE OF CAKE**  
for women and girls who want to make a **big** difference  
hosted by the International Women's Peace Group

Partnering with other likeminded organisations,  
page 02.

**A  
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Turkey...**

...from Eastbourne Club,  
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ROCKET GIRLS  
INTERNATIONAL EAST GRINSTEAD DIVISION

Rocket launch fever in  
East Grinstead, page 04.

Sevenoaks  
Quiz Trail & Town Sign

A fun quiz trail for solos, couples, &...

Learn about histo  
Sevenoaks in your  
time at your next...

Soroptimists on a Quiz  
Trail, page 04.

A Day of Reflection,  
page 06.

DIGITAL: INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY FOR  
GENDER EQUALITY

INTERNATIONAL  
**IWD**  
WOMEN'S DAY

There are plenty of interesting  
IWD webinars coming up over  
the next month, starting with a  
SIGBI Webinar on March 04.  
Full details may be found on  
page 02.





ON JANUARY 26, SI Croydon were delighted to receive a talk from Commonwealth Girls Education Fund (CGEF) Chair of Trustees Roxanne St Clair – Executive Coach, Speaker and Author.

She spoke passionately about the impact of the work CGEF does in supporting girls across the commonwealth gain access to education. It was truly inspiring to hear the life stories of the girls they supported and successes they have achieved.

On behalf of Croydon Club members, treasurer Heather Bailey presented Roxanne with a donation for CGEF.

The card is The Cookbook, an initiative that came out of lock-down to help raise funds for the charity. Supporters took part in the Commonwealth Cook-Off and recipes were selected for inclusion in the cookbook.

CORAL PITTER-KONIBIRE, SI CROYDON

### Dates of the 2023 Saturday Region Meetings

March 18,  
June 24,  
September 23

Holiday Inn Maidstone/Sevenoaks,  
London Road, Wrotham Heath, TN15 7RS

### Closing Date

for the next edition of SEE News  
Sunday March 26, 2023

Email your text and photographs to Patricia at  
pat.painting@btinternet.com 020 8668 2681

If you have events coming up after the closing date, which you would like to appear in SEE News, please advise Patricia who is happy to accept late articles with prior notice.

## A letter to Turkey



Dear Betul and our Karsiyaka Sisters,

I am very pleased to advise you that we, Eastbourne Soroptimists have placed the sum of £720 in the bank account for your Federation to go towards your Soroptimist funds for the Turkish earthquake victims.

This sum of money has been donated from our club funds, together with funds from SI Nara our link club in Japan and anonymous friendly donations.

This also includes special donations from the members that came to visit you from Eastbourne Soroptimists in 1989 and for whom you gave such kind hospitality in Izmir that we will never forget – Julie, Lotte, Denise and Marlene.

We send our love to you all.

Kind regards,

Julie Healey-Hill  
Eastbourne Soroptimists

## Croydon Fairtrade Network



At their monthly speaker meeting held on February 23, Croydon Club members were delighted to receive a presentation from Chris Hunt and Gillian Harrison of Croydon Fairtrade Network (seen above with PAO Helen Mangan) ahead of the start of Fairtrade Fortnight on February 27.

Chris and Gillian shared many stories of Croydon Fairtrade Network's mission to improve sustainable working conditions for farmers and farm workers, including how they were recognised by Cadbury Schweppes who, in the late 00s, encouraged them to make their product, Dairy Milk, a Fairtrade product. Croydon Fairtrade Network were also subsequently mentioned in their promotional advertisement on TV celebrating that Dairy Milk had become a fairtrade product.

In addition to their mayoral reception on March 06, Croydon Fairtrade Network will be giving away Fairtrade Bananas to commuters at East Croydon Station on February 28 from 06:00 to 08:00. So commuters will be able to get a good dose of potassium before starting their working day. They also have more exciting news to come in the next few weeks too.

HELEN MANGAN, PROGRAMME ACTION OFFICER, SI CROYDON

## Rocket Launch Fever in East Grinstead



AT LAST A STEM activity (delayed during Covid19 restrictions) was undertaken by a local Brownie group when Hilary Rowberry, Helen Schortz and Sue Edgar of East Grinstead Club attended one of their weekly meetings.

A NASA video on rocket launches was played, highlighting how women and girls contribute to the engineering processes.

Then the fun started!

The groups were given an A4 piece of paper detailing how to make a 'rocket'. They



decorated and cut out a template, moulded it around a pencil to form the body and then used a drinking straw to propel the rocket. A great deal of fun was had as groups challenged each other on how far their own 'rockets' could fly!

During the activity questions were asked and comments made about Spaceport, Newquay, and Hilary discussed what contribution women were making to these space developments. One of the most telling questions was 'Does Hilary work for NASA? – Who knows?!'

Each of the attendees and their helpers received a Rocket Girls badge and it is intended for this initiative to be replicated with other local groups.

SUE EDGAR, SI EAST GRINSTEAD

## Soroptimists on Quiz Trail around Sevenoaks



The latest entry on the Medway and Maidstone club social calendar, organised by our member Wanda Wright, was to Sevenoaks. It took place on February 22 which was a rather wet day but did not dampen the spirits of the seven members taking part.

Quiz Trails are a popular feature on the club calendar and members have already completed quiz trails in Canterbury, Faversham, Folkestone and West Malling. Quiz trails are fun and an opportunity to learn about historic places in your own time and at your own pace. The Sevenoaks Quiz Trail covers a distance of 1.8m and takes between 1-2 hours to complete. It costs just £5.99 for the Sevenoaks Quiz Trail & Town Souvenir which is full of local facts and stories. All are presented in short snippets giving you lots of highlights. The booklets just need to be ordered in advance of when you plan to go.



As members answered the fun clues on their walk around beautiful Sevenoaks, they were able to see lots of the wonderful history sights. Some of the interesting sights were the Shambles, the centre of the old medieval market, the steep cobbled Six Bells Lane and the small garden near the church. As you can imagine any walk is always finished off with a meal before heading home to read the 24-page souvenir booklet at their leisure. A big thank you to Wanda for organising an enjoyable day...!!

<https://www.quiztrail.co.uk/products/sevenoaks-quiz-trail>

JANE BARNES, SI MEDWAY AND MAIDSTONE

## First Friendship Link Get Together in 2023



### SI Medway and Maidstone 31 January 2023

JULIA SEARCH, MEDWAY and Maidstone’s Friendship Link Co-ordinator hosted our first Zoom get together in 2023 with four of our Friendship Link clubs joining us. Each club shared with us what they had been doing since our last meeting.

Jill and Pam from SI Heswall spoke about the two Story Bags, members had been making. Each bag included a story book with the knitted characters and were given to children attending a local Special School. The books chosen were ‘One snowy night’ and ‘The owl babies’ (see photos below). They had also supported the Lighthouse Project that supports individuals and families who have experienced domestic abuse.

Nik and Cassandra from SI Voorburg told us about how they had focused on the fun and friendship over the Christmas/New Year period. Looking forward to March they plan to hold an annual bridge drive with lunch as a fundraiser. This year they will be celebrating their 65th anniversary since they were chartered.

SI Osnabruck was represented by Ilse and Sigrid who had been raising monies over the Christmas period with proceeds going to the Women’s Shelter.

Some familiar faces from SI Accra were joined by other members for the first time. We heard about an integrated sanitation project they had been working on with a horticulturist. Nellie Adjaye, Medway and Maidstone was in Accra staying with family and joined in the call.

Medway and Maidstone members spoke about the ‘Love me... Love Me Not’ project they are hoping to develop further working with local schools.

It was good to hear that clubs have members planning on attending the International Convention in Dublin in July. It is hoped that we will all be able to meet up face to face, whilst we are there in Dublin.

JANE BARNES, SI MEDWAY AND MAIDSTONE



THROUGHOUT FEBRUARY, THE Climate Coalition <https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/show-the-love> organised a #ShowTheLove campaign.

Seventeen Medway and Maidstone Soroptimists took time out from their Day of Reflection event on February 25 to go outside and #ShowTheLove for our planet. Members had been asked to wear something green and hold green hearts kindly made by one of our members, Maya Bangar.

WHY SHOW THE LOVE? – soaring energy bills, ever-increasing extreme weather and threats to the natural world are leaving our communities at risk and paying the price.

People across the country and all around the world are feeling the impacts of climate change and spiralling costs of living, but are united in wanting to see a safer, greener future. People from all walks of life will use the power of green hearts to show decision-makers that we want to see urgent action to tackle climate change, protect nature and bring down bills.

But we’ve also seen concern about climate change reach an all-time high as people across the country use their voices to call for urgent action. It’s clear that beautiful things are possible when we work together. Medway and Maidstone Soroptimists are committed to wanting to see a safe and greener future.

JANE BARNES, SI MEDWAY AND MAIDSTONE

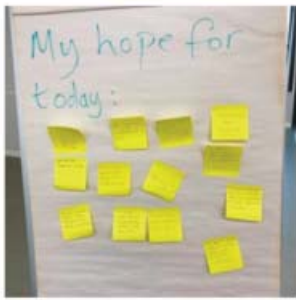


Left: The Owl Babies Story

Above: One Snowy Night Story



# SI Medway and Maidstone Day of Reflection



My hope for today...



PA impact evaluation exercise



It's time for lunch .....



Members Sue, Maya and Liz



Presenters Teresa & Janet having well deserved break for lunch



Stop Start Keep Exercise



MEDWAY AND MAIDSTONE members had their Day of Reflection in February. A brief survey was sent to members to complete in advance of the day. Janet Hughes (member) received 21 responses (70% return) and collated them to inform the Day of Reflection.

Teresa Cambell (member) was our host planning the day that would enable all members to contribute to the discussions. The new SIGBI Hub was a useful resource when preparing for the day.

We were pleased to welcome Diane Tingley, a new Associate member to the Day of Reflection.

Janet Hughes gave an overview of the last year with progress against targets set for Membership, Marketing and Communications, Awards and Partnerships, Programme Action, and Social. The survey findings highlighted the best things about the club that included meeting face to face at Holiday Inn, friendship and activities, warm welcome, coming together and working enthusiastically as a team, support to one another, newer members taking on roles and our 75th anniversary celebrations. In addition, the opportunity to get involved in a range of projects and the excellent social calendar that is a joy and

provides the opportunity to chat and get to know one another better.

Statements gathered from the survey about areas for improvement were used in the 'Making meetings meaningful and motivational' led by Teresa. She introduced us to the 'Stop-Start-Keep' exercise. The plan for going forward would be to stop certain actions, start new ones and keep those we are already doing and happy with.

After a delicious lunch and photo call for #ShowTheLove, it was back to business. Teresa took us through a Programme Action Impact Evaluation highlighting the Soroptimist mission and the focus for Programme Action. In groups we had to assess for each PA activity if wholly, partially, or not relevant to the mission and 5Ps. We agreed strategies for future project selection to ensure we are focused and work SMARTER.

At the close of the day, Liz Duckworth summarised the key findings/themes and plans/actions to be taken forward for 2023/24.

A big thank you to Teresa and all those who had contributed to making the Day of Reflection a success.

JANE BARNES, SI MEDWAY AND MAIDSTONE

## Updating the Region Calendar

Soroptimist International South East England

Today: March 2023 Print Week Month Agenda

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
28	29	1 Mar	2	3	4	5
Fairtrade fortnight 19:00 Eastbourne C 19:30 Thanet Club	SISEE News Desk 19:30 Thanet Club	Ovarian Cancer M 20:00 East Grinstead	World Book Day			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Fairtrade fortnight	13:00 SI Sevenoaks	International Wor	19:30 Croydon Clut 19:30 Medway & M			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
19:00 Eastbourne C	19:30 Sevenoaks C	19:00 Folkestone C 19:30 East Grinstead			10:00 Regional mee	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
19:00 Lewes Club 19:30 Tunbridge Wk 19:45 Bromley Club		World Water Day	19:00 Canterbury C 19:30 Croydon Clut			
27	28	29	30	31	1 Apr	2
19:00 Eastbourne C	SISEE News Desk 19:30 Thanet Club					

## A reminder to Clubs from the Region's Communications Officer

Please do share your events with us so they can be included in the regional calendar.

Send the details you wish to be included through to [siseecommunications@gmail.com](mailto:siseecommunications@gmail.com)

When planning events, please check the regional calendar to avoid any clashes, the regional calendar can be found here [SISEE Region Calendar - SI South East England \(sigbi.org\)](#)

Thank you, Jacalyn Wood