



## A New Year—and we're seeing red!

Happy New Year from all the members of Soroptimist International of Woking & District! This year we are celebrating the Club's fortieth '**Ruby**' anniversary. Since April 1976 Soroptimists have been actively supporting local, national and international projects that help women and girls in particular. We plan to mark our anniversary with a special event in the summer but we'll be seeing **red** throughout this special year.

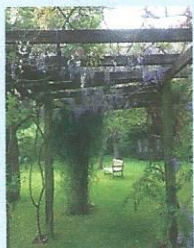
Since our last newsletter, we have raised awareness and funds for the Motor Neurone Disease Association, for our SI Southern Region [Volunteering in Pretoria \(VIP\)](#) project and for the charities we regularly support, such as [Water Aid](#) and [Mary's Meals](#). In December we sent £166 to the International President's Charity 'Educate to Lead: Nepal', bringing our total charity donations since May 2015 to £1538.50. Our members have also been very active in the community, collecting items for local charities, helping local schools and staffing local events such as Domestic Abuse Awareness Week and Woking Food Bank collections at supermarkets.

### 2016 EVENT: WOMEN IN SCIENCE—A FORMULA FOR SUCCESS

In 2016 we will mark **International Women's Day on 8 March** with an event aimed at encouraging girls in the Woking area to study STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) subjects. Four women who opted for STEM subjects will talk about the exciting career opportunities that are opening up for them. There are other plus points to STEM: girls who opt to study one or more STEM subjects throughout their schooling are better equipped not only to pursue technology and science careers: they also bring something extra to any job they do and later on they are more able to help their own children when they go to school.

This event, organised in collaboration with Woking Borough Council, is for 16-19-year-olds, parents and teachers interested in learning about STEM opportunities and advantages. It will be held at: Parkview Centre for the Community, Blackmore Crescent, Woking GU21 5NZ, 6.30-9.00 pm and is open to all, especially those aged 11-17 years. More information on our [website](#) and from [Woking Borough Council](#).

### Wine Tasting in a Summer Garden: our special event in support of the Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Association



Despite one of the wettest summers on record which threatened to turn the SIWD president's garden into a water garden, a keen group of aspiring wine connoisseurs - members of SI Woking & District and their guests - spent a wonderful evening of wine tasting with cheeses last August. Mike Oliver was the wine tutor and provided an informative and educational insight into the wines, grapes and growers.

We raised £450 for the Motor Neurone Disease Association, President Jan Perrot's special charity for 2015-16. The Association is the only national charity in England, Wales and Northern Ireland focused on MND care, research and campaigning. Find out more and see how you can help find a cure for this devastating disease at [www.mndassociation.org](http://www.mndassociation.org).



#### Dinner Speakers:

Graham Sanderson  
Assistant Keeper of Gardens,  
Crown Estate  
5 January 2016  
\*

Bob Hodgson  
SW Surrey MND Association  
2 February 2016  
\*

Jane Nicholson  
Former Head of Security,  
10 Downing Street  
1 March 2016

**International Women's Day**  
8 March 2016

STEM (Science, Technology Engineering, Maths) Open Evening  
in collaboration with Woking  
Borough Council

#### All in the Cards

On a sunny afternoon in Pyrford, Bridge enthusiasts gathered at the Church of the Good Shepherd to ply their card-playing skills on behalf of the Soroptimist International Southern England Regional Volunteering in Pretoria project.

£540 was raised by the two clubs towards sending a volunteer to South Africa to gain experience working with charitable projects. The successful candidate will benefit from the strong friendship links between SI Southern England and South African Clubs.



*We welcome new members - please come to one of our Dinner Meetings and see if you would like to join us.*

*Email us or fill in the [Contact Form](#) on our website.*

*Our Membership Officer will be in touch.*

#### 2015-16 Programme

##### 'Inspiring and Enabling Change'

Financial and service support for:

- \* [No! FGM Safe House in Tanzania](#)
- \* [VIP internship in South Africa](#)
- \* [Mary's Meals](#)
- \* [yourSanctuary](#)
- \* [Mamelodi Project, S. Africa](#)
- \* [Send Family Link](#)
- \* [Kingfield School, Woking](#)
- \* [Girlguiding in Woking Borough](#)
- \* [Liaise Women's Centre](#)
- \* [Motor Neurone Disease Association](#)