

**SISA NEWSLETTER  
SEPTEMBER 2013**



**Presidents message**

It certainly seems to have been a busy year so far. I really would like to thank you all for your support.

We have had the normal business meetings, two of which have included presentations, both of which were inspiring. One from Maddy Moore on her interesting trip abroad as a volunteer. She was most impressed by Sorooptimism and I wouldn't be surprised if one day she became a member. The second, which was truly inspiring, was from Iris Billing on the background and founding of Tanya's Courage which is our main charity for the year. Socially we have been out and about. We had a very enjoyable evening at Marsh Villa Gardens. I never cease to be amazed by the incredible things that some people do with their lives. To produce such a beautiful place and maintain it (and expand it) at the age that couple are, is incredible. Truly a life time's work. Then in, June the club had what sounds like an interesting visit to Port Eliot which I, unfortunately was unable to attend, but all the reports indicate that everybody had a great time.

Also in June came the hospital Fete. Well done Kay for the planning and to everyone else who took part or contributed in any way. Of course, we won the cup again for the best stall. Then on to July and that fantastic Cheese and Wine party hosted by Jane Bridges and her husband. What a wonderful evening and we raised an amazing £720 for our charity. If you didn't attend you missed a good evening. Thank you so much Jane and Dave. Last, but not least, came Libby's BBQ. Another excellent evening although the weather was not as kind and many of us ended up eating indoors. Some brave souls sat outside and of course the children loved the train rides. More people drifted out as the weather improved. The food was, as usual, superb. Thank you Libby and Alan. Another £240 raised, this time for the Birthing in Gambia scheme. Now we have a slight break before the autumn and winter round of meetings begin. Don't forget the Concert on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October for which tickets will shortly need selling and our charter lunch at the Hotel Bristol in Newquay on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November. Looking forward to seeing you all again.

Carole

**New President Carole & NSPCC**

President Carole began the year hosting a tombola and supper at the Bosuns Diner in Charlestown on Friday 19th April. Carole is supporting children's charities and a very pleasant evening raised £300 for Cornwall NSPCC.



### **Hot off the Press!**

Over the past few weeks, Wendy, Libby and I have been giving a lot of thought towards selecting an ideal venue to host our Regional AGM 2015! High on our list was The Eden Project. We thought this to be a notably impressive venue and one morning in June, we set off to meet their Events Manager. We were shown into the 'Gallery' and also the Pod Room in the Core Building with their various facilities and left us with a lot to ponder!! Our next stop was The Carlyon Bay Hotel where Wendy and I had coffee with Peter Brent who clearly remembered the name 'St. Austell Soroptimists' and vividly recalled the 'Toga Party' of some years before!! (I wonder why???) We then walked across the road and 'dropped in' and had an impromptu meeting with Lisa Jago, Banqueting Manager of the Cliff Head Hotel. As you can remember Lisa and the Cliff Head Hotel did a splendid job hosting our fashion show back in March 2011. Lisa was delighted to see us and again Wendy and I talked through what we would need for a Soroptimist Conference. On another occasion, as I work in Newquay, I arranged to meet Martina of the Hotel Bristol who, as always, is very pleasant and professional and put together a package and menu for us to consider. To explore all possibilities, Wendy and I have also visited the Pavilions at the Wadebridge Showground where we were most impressed with a beautiful new building, good sized rooms, and plenty of toilets! Wendy, living in Truro, also went along with Fiona, to see what the Alverton Manor had to offer for a conference. Last week, after we had correlated all the facts and figures, I called our first Regional AGM sub-committee meeting to discuss our findings so far and to see whether, we had found the 'idea venue'. It was a good meeting and surprisingly enough our thoughts and preferences seemed very much 'in tune' with each other. The synopsis was;

The Eden Project - although an impressive venue, we felt no effort was made to accommodate our specific needs for the day and even with discounted room hire, was still too expensive.

The Carlyon Bay Hotel – conference suite too small

Best Western Cliff Head Hotel – Excellent conference room – separate dining room – easy access – plenty of toilets(!) – good relationship with Sorops. Very competitive delegate rate

The Hotel Bristol – day conference would be in the ballroom, and we felt this to be too dark – no natural light, otherwise a strong contender

Showground Pavilions – Splendid array of rooms but no separate dining room. No on-site food, so would have to arrange outside catering.

Alverton Manor – Very impressive in every way but already booked!!

I think you may well have worked out our winner!! I am delighted to say that we have chosen the Best Western Cliff Head Hotel for the SI South West and Channel Islands Regional Conference 2015. The date is June 20<sup>th</sup> 2015 and it is booked!!

This is just the beginning.....lots more to do and to organize. Watch this space!!!

Kay Turner

Regional Vice President SI SWCI

### **Notes from the Federation Councillor**

This has been the first year of the new dates for Region meetings (we have one less) and the February meeting when Kay was introduced was followed by a long gap up to the June AGM. The election process for Councillor starts ridiculously early in the year. Papers go out in February although the Councillor doesn't take up her position till after the SIGBI Conference in November. The Councillor is elected to serve for 2 years with the possibility of a further 2 years. Having only served for just over a year I felt I was just settling into the job and achieving things and I wanted to carry on for a further 2 years. I was proposed by S I Austell and seconded by S I Plymouth; the papers went off to the SIGBI Office in March. It was at the June AGM meeting that I found there was another candidate for Councilor (it has to be a recent Region officer), which was a surprise. I could only wait and see how the Clubs voted. I was very relieved when I received an email in mid July to say I had been elected for a further 2 years. It does mean that I am on the Region Council when Kay is President. What have I been doing? The job is two parts. All the councillors were involved in the consultation on what is meant by Light touch Clubs and a guide to clubs on this and other forms of clubs and membership. I have been involved in setting up the first meeting for Councillors in Gateshead. We realized the need for this in Belfast and managed to get the Board to agree. I have contacted by phone (preferably) or email new Soroptimist members of the Region (we get a quarterly list) to see how they are enjoying their membership. This is confidential, I just give a general report back to the Federation membership Officer, the club is not involved. As a member of the smaller Communications Committee under Board member Jane Slatter I was involved in setting up the new simpler 2 tier system of communication to clubs, I am a buddy to APD Jackie Paling, I am part of the team that proof reads the Soroptimist news and I was asked to write an easy stage guide for the Website on *running a club event*. I am part of the team at the Club Website workshop in Gateshead. Jane works incredibly hard, she has considerable responsibilities within SIGBI. This committee meets on Skype every few months, which keeps us involved and interested. I was disappointed for Jane when she was not successful in the vote for Federation Vice President. She has fresh ideas, is vibrant and dynamic. I don't know what Committee I will be on next year. The Federation Management Board meetings in April & July were in Stockport, too far for me to travel so I have to rely on a report from the Directors without Portfolio, these are Councillors who have a seat on the Board but have no special responsibility. I am impressed with Sue Williams who has become very involved in a short time and communicates well and often with us ordinary Councillors – a future Federation President?

Good news is that the Board have been listening, they have agreed to employ a Communications Officer to work from the SIGBI Office. A professional to support

SIGBIs profile externally, by publicising its programme work through PR and Social Media also The Immediate Past Federation President will act as a spokesperson for SIGBI. Both suggestions that came from this Region. I am happy to take some of the credit for raising this and keeping the pressure on the Board

The formation of a Federation of Africa is still progressing spearheaded by Chinweh Ezenwa-Mbah a DWP from Nigeria who has really got things moving.

During August I have to complete & return my annual report to SIGBI, contact another batch of New members and prepare a report for the September Region meeting.

Wendy Plaice

### Visit to March Villa Gardens

Members were given a private tour of the Marsh Villa Gardens by the owners Julia & Harvey. The garden was created from farmland and marsh over 30 years ago and its development a been continual. It is now one of the must visit gardens in Cornwall. A bright but cold evening with the midges biting did not put off the keen gardeners in the club.



### Euro-English

The European Commission has just announced an agreement whereby English will be the official language of the European Union rather Than German, which was the other possibility. As part of the negotiations, the British Government conceded That English spelling had some room for improvement and has accepted A 5- year phase-in plan that would become known as "Euro-English". In the first year, "s" will replace the soft "c".. Certainly, this Will make the civil servants jump with joy. The hard "c" will be Dropped in favour of "k". This should klear up konfusion, and Keyboards kan have one less letter. There will be growing publik enthusiasm in the sekond year when the Troublesome "ph" will be replaced with "f".. This will make words Like fotograf 20% shorter. In the 3rd year, publik akseptanse of the new spelling kan be Expekted to reach the stage where more komplikated changes are Possible. Governments will enkourage the removal of double letters which have Always ben a deterrent to akurate speling. Also, al wil agre that the horibl mes of the silent "e" in the Languag is disgrasful and it should go away. By the 4th yer people wil be reseptiv to steps such as replasing "th" With "z" and "w" with "v". During ze fifz yer, ze unesesary "o" kan be dropd from vords Kontaining "ou" and after ziz fifz yer, ve vil hav a reil sensi bl Riten styl. Zer vil be no mor trubl or difikultis and evrivun vil find it ezi TU Understand ech oza. Ze drem of a united urop vil finali kum tru. Und efter ze fifz

yer, ve vil al be speking German like zey vunted in Ze forst plas.  
If zis mad you smil, pleas pas on to oza pepl.  
Libby

### **May B.M.**

Maddy Moore from Truro spent part of her gap year volunteering with Raleigh International in rural southern India. A small group undertook Health awareness programmes and supervised the construction of 20 toilets for 3 villages. Maddy shared some of her experiences with the members. The club gave financial support to Maddy for her trip.



**Snu the pupil we sponsor has a very special day out**



## A Birthday Treat

By Sne (11 years old) and  
Thando (15 years old)

### President Jacob Zuma invited Makaphutu Children to celebrate his 71<sup>st</sup> birthday with him!

*Imagine our delight and surprise when we were told our children were invited to spend the afternoon with the President of our country at his home in Morningside on his 71st birthday! Two of our young girls share a bit of what it was like:*

On 14 April 2013, the children of Makaphutu woke up very early to go to President Zuma's birthday party. He was turning 71. A big bus came to fetch us and the bus collected children from other homes as well. When we got there we saw Zuma's children and his wives. One of his daughters is an actress. The party was in the garden at the President's house in Durban. Everything was decorated with a Barney theme. There was a jumping castle, face painting and a clown walking on stilts. All of the children honoured the President and gave him presents. The Makaphutu children sang for

him and gave him a Happy Birthday poster that we drew in a frame. Sne read a Happy Birthday card to Zuma from everyone at Makaphutu. All of the children that were there got to have their photo taken with him. They framed the photos for us and we got to take them home. Each child also got a box of sweets and chips as a gift. At the party we had lots of food! We had burgers, homemade Pringles, cool drinks, hot dogs, ice cream and popcorn! Our stomachs hurt when we got home! President Zuma's cake was decorated as Barney and everyone had a piece. The police were everywhere and people from the news were there too. He is 71 but his daughter said he is turning 17! The numbers are wrong! We made friends with children from other homes. We are grateful that we got to go to Zuma's birthday party!

Carolyn and her daughter successfully completed the 26.2 mile London Moon Walk ,in May, helping to raise millions of pounds for vital research. This is Carolyn 's third Moon walk, this years theme was "fly me to the moon",..



### **The Race for Life in Truro**

This was held in July Jo and Jean stop off at Marshall point No 9 for a quick photo. Soroptimist Wendy was at her post. A very hot day for the ladies doing the race!



### **Book Review**

I have just read a book called The Little Coffee Shop of Kabul by Deborah Rodriguez. The author spent five years teaching at and later directing the Kabul Beauty School. She also owned the Oasis Salon and co-owned the Kabul Coffee House.

She is the founder of the non profit organisation Oasis Rescue which aims to teach women in post conflict and disaster stricken areas the art of hairdressing. Although this is a novel it shows the life of women in Afghanistan and I can recommend it.

Sue Curr

### **"As well be shot as be starved"**

On a barmy Summers Eve, during St Austell Feast Week Restormel Arts put on a Community Play based on the Bread Riots of 1847. I thought, why not have a Sorops night out? So first night was 'Sorops' night with 12 of us meeting up along with Kay, Andrew, Kathryn and Gary to support George who was one of the leads. The Rum

Cellars of St Austell Brewery was the 'stage' with tiered seating (a cushion was essential) and the action taking place on the floor with a raised stage behind. We were treated to first class acting by an excellent cast of amateurs, some who had never acted before, but very impressive. The play opens with the Trial that tells the story of that fateful day, Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June 1847. The story is a sad one as good honest working folk tried to help their poorer neighbours by protesting about the price of bread in the form of a march from Roche to St Austell gathering more people all the way along. It ended up with the reading of the riot act and several arrests and a trial, the ring-leaders were sent to prison. The script by Bill Scott of the Miracle Theatre was well written and got the point across with feeling and the actors used his words well. Some excellent characterisation and even humour with a sprinkling of songs made for a well-rounded play and kept us entertained. We all enjoyed our night out and Kay can be well-proud of George. His character was an angry young man, quite different from the George we know. We look forward to seeing him in the West End one day.

Catherine Hannaford

### **Penrice Fete – 29<sup>th</sup> June 2013**

This year, for the first time, held at Charlestown Church Hall, the Fete seemed set to be a great success. When I arrived at 11.00am to start up setting, some stalls were already completed! Anyway, with an abundance of tablecloths, doyleys, silverware, photographs and memorabilia, we set about decorating our stall. As always, the produce that arrived was staggering. Cakes and buns, some iced in purple and green, elegant cupcakes and ice cream cone cakes, (which everyone drooled) , traybakes, scones and drizzle cake. The raffle hamper was overflowing with Cornish produce and a coal skuttle was placed to put the raffle tickets in. Fresh flower arrangements arrived in wonderful purples and whites which punched colour all around our display. Along the front, we pinned 'votes for women' posters, punctuated with purple and green rosettes and to complete our theme, our bespoke banner, which was our 'crowning glory', was strategically placed where all could read our message, **'1913-Suffragettes fought for women to have a voice - 2013 Soroptimists fight to ensure women's voices are still heard'**. We duly put on our suffragette uniforms, (some took longer to get ready than others!), and we took our places ready for the judging. It was nail biting stuff, but we were delighted to take first prize for the second year running. As in my e-mail, the stall made just over £100.70 and the raffle £129.00, making a grand total of £229.70 which I think you will agree was a marvellous effort.





You will have noticed, at this stage I have not named anyone in my report yet, as I am terrified of leaving someone out. There was so much work, time and effort put into our presentation this year. So, to; Carole, Brenda and Barbara T. who helped set up, Pat W. for fantastic flower arrangements, (2 of which I bought), special thanks to Liz Jenkin and her staff for the banner and votes for women posters, to the expert bakers and confectioners, (you know who you are!), to Wendy for making 7 purple/white/green sashes for our suffragette uniform, Pres. Carole for numerous rosettes, and for the ladies who loaned us their prize possessions for the day, a huge thank you. To; Carol Richards and Barbara T for running the raffle, and helpers Ann T., Catherine Hannaford, Liz Jenkin, Jo. and Daphne., and of course, dear Sue, who was on another stall, but who was supporting us from across the room!! I felt, as I am sure the others did, enormously proud, not just the fact we had won first prize, or the fact the stall looked fabulous, but so proud for what we stand for. The banner said it all. I wasn't there at the finish as I had to leave early, but I know, all the produce was sold off, hardly a crumb remained. Ladies...thank you all sincerely for giving so much to such a worthy cause. A very successful day for the hospital and an equally successful day for our Club. Well done to everyone!!  
Kay T.

### **Tanya's Courage Trust**

Iris & Nikki from Tanya's Courage Trust spoke about the Charity formed in memory of Iris's daughter who fought Adult Acute Myloid Leukaemia before losing her fight aged 17. Tanya expressed a wish to help others of her age. The Trust aims to support teenagers and young adult cancer sufferers (16-25) and their families throughout Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. . At present over 50 families are receiving support in a great many ways.



The proceeds from the weekly Wednesday Charlestown Tombola and the Cheese & wine evening at Jane Bridges on 13th July went to this unique and much appreciated Charity, the wine and cheese was held on a gloriously warm Saturday evening. Jane invited Soroptimists, Rotarians, Inner Wheelers and of course the neighbours. Over £600 was raised



### **St Austell feast week**

On the hottest day of the year we set up our Children's Colouring Competition stall in

Truro Road park alongside other local service organisations, as part of Feast Week. It was a quiet afternoon many families had sensibly gone to the beach but the children who did attend were happy to sit in the shade and draw. We also used the opportunity to promote the club



### Information you may find useful

A relative of mine received a new cushion for her wheelchair. It had, attached, the following label:-

“Instructions for use:

Place cushion on seat and sit on it.”

So glad we had that advice – we were wondering what to do with it.....

Ann T

*And from Libby*

***Two patients limp into two different medical clinics with the same complaint?***

***Both have trouble walking and appear to require a hip replacement.***

***The FIRST patient is examined within the hour, is x-rayed the same day and has a time booked for surgery the following week.***

***The SECOND sees his family doctor after waiting 3 weeks for an appointment, then waits 8 weeks to see a specialist, then gets an x-ray, which isn't reviewed for another week and finally has his surgery scheduled for 6 months from then.***

***Why the different treatment for the two patients?***

***The FIRST is a Golden Retriever.***

***The SECOND is a Senior Citizen.***

***Next time take me to a vet!***

Thank you for your contributions

Closing date for next new letter is 18/12/13

Any items sent to [glowji@gmail.com](mailto:glowji@gmail.com) will be gratefully received and acknowledged

### **Plant Sale**

The Oswalds annual plant sale held on Sunday May 12<sup>th</sup> raised a record breaking total of £1650 . £550 for each Charity

As I grow older.....

My mind  
doesn't just  
wander...



Sometimes  
it  
buggers off  
completely!