

Newsletter for South West & Channel Islands Region

Soroptimists inspire action and create opportunities to transform the lives of women and girls through a global network of members and international partnerships.

Number 15 - Autumn 2016



AUTUMN 2016 NEWSLETTER

Hi Ladies,

I can't believe the year has flown so quickly as I've just realised that this will be my final newsletter as Regional President. I have had a ball meeting up with all the clubs at teas, dinners, lunches and friendship weekends. Without exception, they were well organised and Don and I have been made most welcome. I would like to thank my Regional Officers over the past year, as well as my Bath Club who have supported me every inch of the way, and by no means least to my husband Don who has helped me particularly on the admin side as well as being my bag carrier and escort!

Daphne will be taking over from me in Malta. I know that she will bring her infectious enthusiasm, organisational skills and energy to the job and that the Region will have a good year ahead of them. I know that your club's support will be appreciated by Daphne and her officers, as much as it was by me. Congratulations to all the clubs that have been mentioned in the SIGBI news over the past year. Our Region can be very proud of its achievements and it is brilliant to see it recognised in the Federation magazine as well as in your local newspapers. We will be saying farewell to 3 of our regional officers at the next meeting: Audrey Taylor (Secretary extraordinaire), Anne Brooker (Website administrator) and Di Hill who is going onto the Federation board as Director without Portfolio. Many thanks to them for all their time and effort over the years, especially Audrey and Anne who have given several years to the region in their roles.

We will shortly be off to the Federation Conference in Malta which will be great fun as well as very informative. St Cirencester are presenting their Award-winning Literacy Competition which is a great honour for them as a Club and for us as a Region. I know just how much hard work goes into organising and running this Literacy Competition.

Finally, thank you all for your support, friendship and hospitality over my year as President.

Yours in friendship, Regional President Diane

**Regional Theme 2015/16:
'Women should be seen AND heard'**

Regional Information

Future Dates for your Diary 2016/17

Apart from the Regional AGM all meetings are held at The Catholic Centre in Taunton

President Elect Daphne Dowsing's Year 2016/2017

- 26th November 2016 - Regional Meeting
- 25th March 2017 - Regional Meeting
- 16th/18th June 2017 - Regional AGM, conference and friendship weekend in Tiverton.
- 23rd September 2017 - Regional Meeting

Regional Officers 2015- 2016

President: Diane Steele
President Elect: Daphne Dowsing
Vice President: **Vacant (Can you help?)**
Treasurer: Janet Diffell
Secretary: Audrey Taylor
Membership & Development: Shirley Alexander
Programme Action Officer: Irene Hockin
Regional Councillor: Di Hill
Benevolent Fund Representative: Christine Briggs
No 63 Representative : Alex Lain
Website Administrator: Anne Brooker

Next Regional Meeting

Membership: There will be a session at lunch time during the next Regional meeting on the 26th November for membership officers or presidents to attend, one representative from each club.

Growth Plan: Kay Turner and her team of Wendy, Christine and Irene will make a presentation about the Growth Plan. The aim is to get feedback from members to help with planning for the Regional development day.



SI Bath, ably supported by their Friendship Clubs from SI Cirencester and High Wycombe at the end of their highly successful and fun charity quiz night. Over £500 was raised through entry tickets, the raffle, card sales and the bar profits.

Club Visits across the Region



Showing off cupcakes with SI Yeovil, Sherborne and District President Veronica Venables-Ross and their Blue Badge speaker



Enjoying some Indian fare with SI Bridgwater after an interesting talk.



Diane's visit to SI Barnstaple with their President Irene Hockin and the Deputy Lieutenant for North Devon



Entertaining speaker when visiting SI Jersey. Walking through the doorway was quite a challenge!



President Diane with SI Taunton President Sue Savill beside their 'Scarecrow' event



Save the Date!

The next Regional development day will be focussed on the SIGBI Growth Plan and will be held on Saturday, March 11th at the Taunton Holiday Inn.

More details to follow.





SI Swindon created a stand in the library for the International Day of the Girl Child. They manned it throughout the day and a lady we spoke to came to their meeting the next day! The Stand remained in the Library for the next week.



Swindon Soroptimists and friends held a fashion evening recently to raise funds for Target Ovarian Cancer and the Swindon Women's Centre.

Friendship Links

It's always interesting to hear about Friendship links.

Tiverton have a link with SI Jersey and Di Hill and Daphne Dowsing visited them during their Friendship Weekend.

SI Bath were strongly supported by SI Cirencester and SI High Wycombe at their recent charity quiz night.



Regional President Diane presenting Jackie Webb from SI Swindon with a certificate celebrating 25 year's service.



Railing against Abuse. Friday November 25th.

Please contact Melanie David for more details of this fabulous event and how your club can join in.

melaniej david@btinternet.com

Reminders!

If you are still knitting short sleeved vests then please contact Beth Divine who will arrange for them to be collected.

bethdivineyoga@gmail.com





SI St Austell hosted a BBQ in August where the proceeds will go to sponsor a girl in the Philippines, via the Purple Community fund who used to be the Philippine Community Fund.



International Day of Peace.
SI St Austell with messages of peace written on paper doves and hung from the tree.



SI Plymouth in Action



Purple Angel Memory Cafe

On 8th October a meeting was held at the Purple Angel Memory Café for folks suffering with dementia. The café is based at the Barton Baptist Church in Torquay and that's where a group of Torquay Soroptimists' arrived on Saturday at 2pm. The atmosphere was very natural and friendly and we were soon introduced to everyone. We delivered our colourful collection of Twiddlemuffs as gifts for the group. We explained how to use them and took them round for everyone to investigate and choose one to take home. There were happy faces all round – time to go? No the fun was just about to start! We joined in games from the past, ate sweets from the past, completed a quiz, concentrated on a word search, played musical instruments, sang and ate tea and cake! You couldn't help but feel happy. There was a tinge of sadness but then we discovered that the energetic gentleman leading the meeting with his wife was actually Norman MacNamara. He was diagnosed with a form of dementia six years ago and he's proof that life can be worth living. He's a star. His vision and commitment have driven the global organisation for the Purple Angel Memory Cafes. I drove home singing "Walking back to happiness with you oo-oo-oo"



SI Bath renewing their Friendship Link with SI Budapest



SI Corinium (Cirencester) hosting a toga party at their Friendship weekend



SI Tiverton and District. The local Tiverton museum has a steam engine called the Tivvy Bumper on display and has developed a trail of 21 decorated sculptures of it around the town and surrounding areas. SI Tiverton and District decided that they could raise the profile of the club by photographing each club member with a sculpture; compiling a collage and submitting it to the photo competition in the hope that if we win we will gain free publicity.

They had great fun doing it and have used the photo several times themselves on Facebook, the website and at the local colleges Fresher week.

They have also put it on the closed Communications page of SIGBI for others to take an idea from to use with their club as many towns and cities seem to have these sculpture trails now.