



## Newsletter for South West & Channel Islands Region

Number 2: New Year 2014

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



Hello Everyone,

A VERY HAPPY, HEALTHY AND SUCCESSFUL NEW YEAR to you all. I hope you had a good Christmas and didn't suffer as a result of the horrendous weather which blighted the Festive Season for so many.

I look forward to meeting up with you all again at our next Regional Meeting on International Women's Day, Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March.

Sue

### International Women's Day: Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March

As you know, I thought it would be a good idea to hold our spring Regional meeting on International Women's Day to give us an opportunity to make a collective and greater impact than celebrating the day as individual Clubs.

With the help of a small team from SI Taunton we have arranged a walk from our meeting room to the centre of Taunton to meet the Mayor, Libbie Lizgo who has attended an SI Taunton meeting. We will carry a specially made, sponsored, regional banner and will have copies of *What's a Soroptimist?* to hand out to passers by.

To mark the occasion we will present the Mayor with a copy of *I am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai as this ably represents our International theme, *Educate to Lead*. The local press has expressed interest so please keep your fingers crossed that we get some good publicity.

We thought it would be good if we could all try and wear something eye-catching, to identify us as a group, and ended up by thinking we could do no better than Gateshead by wearing red if possible – so please hunt out the red scarves and brollies you sported on that occasion.

We can't, unfortunately, organize dry weather but know we will make our presence felt.

## Situation **STILL** Vacant

### REGIONAL TREASURER

We can't run the Region without one!

No accounting qualifications needed

Not onerous

What's involved?

- Collecting money from Clubs, paying in and sending Capitation fees to SIGBI and UKPAC
- Keeping an eye on the Region and Travel Pool's funds
- Ensuring accounts prepared for the Annual Audit in March

*Help and Support will be given by  
Vanessa*

We are committed to a world where women and girls together achieve their individual and collective potential, realise aspirations and have an equal voice in creating strong and peaceful communities worldwide.

## Programme Action – Our Reason for Being

The first Soroptimist club boasted 81 members – and I ask you how much work could we get through with that number in our Clubs today – or could we?

We might not be able to have the numbers that set out to save the redwood trees but I do believe that it is the quality and not the quantity of both members and projects that have the most impact and make the greatest difference in the world today.

The vitality for Programme Action comes from the projects we choose to pursue, but to achieve success members must believe in what they are being asked to support.

The motto of the first Venture Club was *Looking Further* and we must keep this in mind when planning our Programme Action.

- What have we identified as a project?
- What group are we aiming to support (ie women/women and girls/women and their children?)
- What is achievable?
- What is our plan of action?
- What is our long-term goal?

*Reach high* and encourage each Club member to bring something to the project.

*Allay negative attitudes* by doing your homework to ensure positive outcomes.

*Don't be precious* – is the project one that other Clubs in the Region could support?

Membership of our Region's 18 Clubs vary from 14 to 49, but statistics matter not – we carry out our **Action with Attitude**, and will continue to do so throughout the coming year – I'm convinced of that!

**Irene Hockin, PA Officer**

## Meeting dates in 2014

### All the year's Regional meetings will be held at: The Catholic Centre, The Mount, Taunton

#### 8 MARCH 2014: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

In addition to having our representative from SIGBI's Federation Management Board, Bozena Benton, Director without Portfolio, we are planning to, briefly, celebrate the day (see page 1).

We are also planning to look at *Membership and Development* that day and will end the day with a speaker from UNSEEN, on Human Trafficking.

#### 28 JUNE 2014 IS OUR AGM AND CONFERENCE

We have some exciting speakers lined up for the Conference – more about that nearer the time.

#### 20 SEPTEMBER 2014

The final meeting of the year – more about that, also, nearer the time.

There will be time for *Membership and Development* at each meeting.

All providers of reports have been asked to ensure these are circulated in advance of each meeting (with the opportunity for a brief verbal update at meetings and an opportunity to answer any questions) to enable us to concentrate on speakers and discussion.

## Meal Appeal Update

Via **Mary's Meals**, £10.70 will feed one child for a year!

57m children in the world are not in school and 18,000 die every day.

Mary's Meals feeds 792,621 children in 16 countries in the world.

We are incredibly fortunate that **Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, Founder and Chief Executive of Mary's Meals**, who has enormous demands on his time, **has agreed to speak at our Regional Conference on 28<sup>th</sup> June.**

I had suggested that it would be wonderful if, as a Region, we could collect enough money to feed 100 children for a year and hand a cheque to Magnus at our Conference. At the last meeting, the spontaneous whip round produced over £200 and I know Clubs have also collected money in the meantime. **93p in every pound donated goes to fund the work of Mary's Meals.** Perhaps I'm being over-optimistic but I want to aim high.

Jackie Mosedale has volunteered to hold a summer tea party at her house to raise funds.

I've already been given £10 and SI Bristol has money collected from the loose change collected at supper meetings. If you agree this suggestion, please collect what you can and give it to Vanessa.

## Future Dates for your Diary

2014-2015

29 November 2014 Regional meeting

21 March 2015 Regional Meeting

Regional AGM: 20 June 2015

At the Cliffhead Hotel, St Austell

9-12 July 2015 International  
Convention in Istanbul

19 September 2015 Regional Meeting