



Newsletter for South West & Channel Islands Region

Number 4: Spring 2014

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



Situation Vacant

REGIONAL

VICE PRESIDENT

At the Harrogate Conference in November, Kay will become Regional President and Diane will move up to fill her place as President Elect. So we'll need a Vice President.

To be eligible, a member has to have been voting representative of her Club for a year. The 'job description' is on the members' section of the SIGBI website. The title of the document is *SI Region/National Association/Network Role Specifications*.

Being Regional President is an enormous privilege and very rewarding; there is much support from fellow officers so please think of putting your name forward or thinking of someone who would be a good candidate.

This could be a job share.

Hello Everyone,

Very many thanks to those of you who donned something red and walked through the centre of Taunton waving placards and carrying banners to celebrate International Women's Day on 8th March – our last Regional meeting.

Libby Lisgo, Mayor of Taunton Deane who met this 'monstrous regiment' of red-clad women was delighted to be presented with a copy of *I am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai and I had a charming card of thanks from her.

Congratulations to SI Taunton for their very successful first *Skirting Science* day held at the end of March and to all Clubs for continuing hard work on Programme Action projects.

Best wishes

Sue

Together, we CAN make a difference!

Regional AGM and Conference

June is turning into an incredibly busy Soroptimist month but PLEASE don't forget to book for the Regional AGM and Conference on **Saturday 28th June at Redwood Hotel, BS8 3TG, just outside Bristol.**

We have 3 excellent speakers in addition to **Ann Garvie**, President of Soroptimist International.

Baroness Jean Corston will talk about the way in which the Corston Report (published 6 years ago) has improved the life of women in the criminal justice system (and those at risk of offending) and the alternatives to custodial sentences that have resulted and are now available.

Magnus MacFarlane Barrow will be joining us from his home in the north of Scotland to talk about the work of Mary's Meals which provides a daily meal for over 815,412 children in 16 of the poorest countries in the world.

Anita Corbin an internationally recognised photographer is shooting and collecting iconic portraits of 21st century women who have achieved the landmark title "First Woman" across a range of fields. The portraits will be launched in 2018 in a high profile exhibition and book.

Meeting dates in 2014

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

28 JUNE 2014 IS OUR AGM AND CONFERENCE
See above!

20 SEPTEMBER 2014

Carwen Wynne-Howells (Procedural consultant for the Soroptimist International President) will be coming to talk about SI's involvement with CEDAW (the UN convention on the elimination of *all* forms of Discrimination Against Women) and Cherry Cadwallader, Secretary of SIGBIs charity, the Diamond Education Grant. We are also hoping to have a Programme Action speaker – watch this space!

There will also be time for an update on *Membership and Development*. 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

Despite the fact that the cost of feeding a child for a year has, not surprisingly, risen from £10.70 a year to £12.20, I am absolutely delighted to announce that the Region has succeeded in its aim to raise sufficient money to feed 100 children for a year.

So thank you all for your hard work and contributions. I shall be so proud to present the cheque to Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, Founder and Chief Executive of Mary's Meals, when he comes to speak at the Regional Conference on 28th June.

SI Bristol's Friendship Weekend

Friday 27th June

Welcome Reception with buffet and drinks at Penny Brohn Centre, near Bristol BS20 0HH
Cost: £8.50

Saturday 28th June

Dinner at Walton Park Hotel, Clevedon BS21 7BY
Cost: £35

Sunday 29th June

Lunch at Susan Greenwood's home
No charge – but please book!

Don't forget to book, even for the free Sunday lunch: closing date 6th June.

Booking forms have been sent out.

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

If you want to go fast go alone. If you want to go far, go together
African proverb