

Newsletter for South West & Channel Islands Region

Soroptimists inspire action and create opportunities to transform the lives of women and girls through a global

Number 12 Winter 2015



Hi Ladies. At last I have found a bit of spare time to put together a regional newsletter. The last couple of months have been very busy starting with the 81st Federation Conference in Glasgow where I took over from Kay as Regional President. Kay's a hard act to follow but I will do my best to take the region further forward.

Traditionally the first event after the conference is SI Brixham's Dinner and the evening was well worth the journey. Don (my husband and bag carrier) and I were made very welcome with great company, sustenance and entertainment to fill the evening. It's so nice to see a dinner being supported by other clubs in the region as well.

It seemed only a few weeks since we were enjoying the AGM and Friendship weekend at SI St Austell and District in June, but there we were again, this time enjoying a memorable evening at the Lanhydrock Golf Club with lovely food and an interesting guest speaker. Well done to both clubs, as I know how much work goes into these events.

The newly elected President's first regional meeting is always a daunting one but with the help of the regional officers and my club in Bath, it went well and I've received some lovely compliments about the guest speakers.

- Jane Walker MBE from the Philippine Community Fund certainly grabbed our attention as her story was truly amazing. I didn't expect to hear the terrible story of her early life. It's incredible that she was able to come out of it to become the founder member of a great charity.
- Pallavi Lathe, Consultant from the Birmingham NHS Trust, delivered a shocking yet informative account of FGM which gave us a realistic picture of this terrible practice which has reinforced our need to be vigilant and take action.
- Jane Slatter, Federation Communications and Development Officer also gave a presentation on the future of our Federation. Her presentation has been sent to all club members so please take the time to look at it over a cup of coffee.

Federation President Margaret Emsley's message is about 'Engineering the Future' and is keen for us to give science based opportunities (STEM) to girls in schools. Some of our clubs are already successfully doing this and I know that SI Weston-super-Mare initiated the 'Skirting Science' project. If you haven't already done so, please look into this as a possible project.

Finally, I'd like to wish you and your Families a very Merry Christmas and Peaceful and Healthy New Year.

Best wishes, Regional President Diane

Future Dates for your Diary 2016

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

- 12th March 2016 - Regional Meeting
- 24th 26th June 2016 - Regional AGM and Friendship Weekend
- 24th September 2016 - Regional Meeting

President Elect Daphne Dowsing's Year 2016/2017

- 26th November 2016 - Regional Meeting
- 25th March 2017 - Regional Meeting
- 17th June 2017 - Regional AGM
- 23rd September 2017 - Regional Meeting

Regional Officers 2015- 2016

President: Diane Steele
 President Elect: Daphne Dowsing
 Vice President: vacancy
 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

Train the Trainer's Day March 5th 2016

Please take note that on March 5th there will be a 'Train the Trainer's Day' for all clubs to attend at the Holiday Inn in Taunton.

Two members from each club will be able to attend with travel pool provided. Please start thinking of whom may be able to attend.

More details will follow in the New Year from Membership and Development Councillor Shirley Alexander.

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



‘Orange the World Day’ was done in style by SI Weston-super-Mare and sister clubs along the main train line starting at Bristol Temple Meads. Well done ladies! You look well and truly tangoed!