

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 21 Autumn/Winter 2018/19

It is our pleasure as Joint Regional Presidents to present the first Regional newsletter of the year! As our quarterly tenure is about to expire, we hope to bring you a little insight of what we have been up to since October and also dates for your diaries, going forward into Spring.



The excitement at the Liverpool Conference was evident to all waiting to go on stage to collect their Regional chain! Although there are 5 joint Presidents this year for our Region, it was down to Audrey and Kay to represent the Region and collect the chain from IPP Daphne Dowsing.

The first date on the Regional President's year is almost always SI Brixham's Dinner Dance. It is always a well-attended event and their 70th anniversary was no exception. As Wendy had recently had an

operation, Kay attended in the President's role, complete with chain and was delighted to respond to the toast 'Soroptimist International and the Brixham Club' on behalf of the Region. JRP's Wendy and Kay hosted the November meeting at Taunton, details of which can be found on the SIGBI South West & Channel Islands website and also, in-depth details of course, are in the minutes, compiled by Regional President Elect, Margaret Parkinson.



Wendy and Kay also visited SI Torquay & District at their annual inter-club meeting in November, where they were joined by fellow members of SI St. Austell & District, SI Plymouth and SI Brixham, to hear an excellent presentation on the Red Box Project. It was a splendid evening, with wonderful hospitality and food. Thank you to the President and members of SI Torquay & District.

Our final visit was to SI Swindon & District after receiving an invitation to attend a meeting by President Valerie. Wendy and Kay again enjoyed excellent hospitality and friendship and exchanged ideas and information relating to concerns SI Swindon & District face, regarding the geography of the town and attracting new members. An extremely hardworking Club and we are delighted to report that they have since recruited a new member. Brilliant news!

PROGRAMME ACTION MATTERS

It certainly does in our Region! You have done an amazing 174 PA projects during this current year and there are still some in the pipeline before we get to April. It's good to see clubs working on the same major international projects such as Purple Teardrop, WaterAid, Mary's Meals and Meru, but also on local projects like the Red Box, the Nelson Women's Centre, Look Good, Feel Better and many others. A few clubs have worked together to support projects such as the observation of domestic abuse cases in courts. Would working together more provide greater impact?

Our meetings, phone-calls and Skyping were enjoyable and useful. Good to have time to chat and get to know each other a bit better. Good news from HQ, the difficult PRRFs are being re-designed and the new version will be presented at the Bournemouth Conference. I'll arrange a session for PAOs to get familiarised with this.

Payment of capitation fees to SIGBI was discussed and it was agreed that monthly payments direct to HQ would be helpful. Federation Management Board have asked the Director of Finance to set up such a system, but it will take some time.

Please let me know about your events so they can go in the Regional Newsletter and do send your photos with short caption to Sally at HQ. A couple of clubs are organising Zumba Glow events and photos from those would be perfect.

Thanks and congratulations to all clubs.

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MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to the new members joining the Region during our term of office.

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|----------------------|---|
| Caroline Page | SI Barnstaple & District |
| Rebecca Wells-Fowler | SI Barnstaple & District |
| Ivete Hunt | SI Bristol |
| Ann Michael | SI Bristol |
| Anita Smith | SI Bristol |
| Julie McFeat | SI St Austell & District |
| Liz Frier | SI St Austell & District (Transfer from SI Bristol) |
| Christina Holland | SI Swindon & District |
| Omelia Legg | SI Swindon & District |
| Maria O’Sullivan | SI Taunton |
| Gillian Sharland | SI Tiverton & District |
| Jo Gower-Crane | SI Weston-Super-Mare |
| I D Clarke | SI Weston-Super-Mare |



SI St Austell & District

Many congratulations to you all and we sincerely hope you enjoy your Soroptimist journey, have fun taking part and make many friends. Please come along to see us, when you are able, at a Regional meeting!



SI Weston-Super -Mare



SI Tiverton & District

WESTON SUPER MARE
 80th Charter Lunch
 Sunday 24th February 2019
 Batch Country House,
 Lympsham

IMPORTANT

Do look at our excellent regional website on www.sigbi.org/swci and why not show your friends too!
 Make sure you keep up to date with SIGBI News Briefings as there are lots of interesting articles and changes in the pipeline.

Dates and events: You may wish to plan ahead!

6th February International Day to Zero Tolerance to FGM
 11th February International Day of Women and Girls in Science
 8th March International Women’s Day
 22nd March World Water Day.

UPCOMING REGIONAL POSITIONS:

Website and Communications
 Vice President
 Membership and Development
Regional Secretary will be sending out details.

It only remains for Joint Presidents Kay and Wendy to thank you all for your friendship and support over the past 3 months. We have enjoyed this unique experience and now extend our very best wishes to Sue Perry, SI Bristol, who will be taking up the reins for February, March and April. Hope to see you all at the next Regional meeting on Saturday 23rd March!

Wendy and Kay