

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 13 Spring 2016



Regional President Diane presenting a knitted blanket for Val Huxley (CEO of People against Poverty) to take over to Romania

Hi Ladies,

March has been very busy for the Region's Soroptimists with International Women's Day, World Book Day, World Water Day and Fair-trade fortnight to name but a few. I must thank you for your contributions towards the newsletter and apologise if I've missed any. You should all be proud of yourselves for getting out there and being **seen AND heard!**

It was good to see so many of you at the recent regional meeting and to welcome first time attendees, it really does showcase the bigger picture. It was interesting to hear the latest from Federation Director of Membership Sue Williams and Val Huxley's story of how she built up her charity People against Poverty. Irene Hockin stood in for a speaker and guided us through the new online Programme Action forms, something that **all** members can do, not just your Programme Action Officer. Many thanks to Shirley Alexander (Membership Officer) for organising the Train the Trainer's Day this month. Along with Sally Williams, Irene Hockin, Daphne Dowsing and Di Hill, they put together a fantastic programme which produced very positive feedback (see separate report). Another regional training day is planned for next year.

I have been to two very enjoyable club lunches so far this year at Weston-super-Mare and Bristol where I was made most welcome. It's a great way for clubs to get to know each other better, enjoy wonderful food and listen to interesting speakers. You will all be aware of May Membership month as Associate Membership is launched. We are all encouraged to let Head Office know what we are planning to do to showcase our clubs. Do let Shirley Alexander know your plans and get ready to advertise it in your local area.

Don't forget that the Regional AGM, Conference and Friendship weekend is being held from 24th - 26th June in Bradford on Avon. My Bath club extends a warm welcome to you all for what will be an enjoyable weekend. Look out also for future events throughout the region since I've spotted some tasty 'teas' on offer and more Friendship weekends. Have a wonderful Easter, enjoy the break and get ready for action on membership in May.

Yours in friendship, Regional President Diane

Future Dates for your Diary 2016

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

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 (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

Reminders!

Please remember to register for the UKPAC study day on 9th July. It's at the Aztec Hotel in Bristol so nice and close for some of us. Registration via the SIGBI website sigbi.org/ukpac

PE Daphne reminds us that if you would like dinner at the Conference Hotel on Saturday 11th November then let her know and send a cheque by the end of March. More details are available from daphnestherapies@hotmail.co.uk

Regional Theme 2015/16:

'Women should be seen AND heard'

HAVEN'T YOU ALL BEEN BUSY!



IPP Kay presenting outgoing Councillor Wendy with 'thank you' flowers

Tiverton Club members stood on Lowman Bridge, Tiverton for 2.5 hours on a cold and at times drizzly day. We would like to thank the WI; Tangent; Girl Guides Association; past members and friends who came to support us and in particular the members of the public who generously donated £125.93 for Children's Hospice South West.



Torquay have been busy knitting long sleeved and short sleeved 'fish n chip shop' baby vests, and hats for children. Over 100 garments are going to Sierra Leone, India, Ukraine.



PE Daphne with Sue Williams, Federation Director of Membership at our March Regional meeting



New Club banner and "Clean for the Queen" at St Austell.



Torquay and District at their "Big Breakfast" for Fair-trade Fortnight



DANGER! SOROPTIMISTS AT WORK.



Plymouth SI on International Women's Day



Ovarian Cancer Awareness Display in Brixham Library with Programme officer Jill Ogley



World Book Day celebrated in St Austell



Train the Trainers' Day with Sally Williams at the helm at Taunton.



SI Barnstaple members were joined by the town's lady Mayor and stood on the town's old bridge in the cold, in celebration and recognition of International Women's Day.

SWCI REGION SOROPTIMISTS

EDUCATING,
EMPOWERING
AND
ENABLING