

Dear Friends,  
Summer is passing quickly and the recent Equinox and coming hour change means the night will become longer than the day and it will be lighter in the mornings when we get up. However, we have many weeks of outside activity left yet.

We have been busy with projects, activities and enjoying ourselves since our last newsletter about nine months ago.

**Programme of Action Working with the Elderly:** Following on from our Christmas entertainment; and the weekly session of art and craft activities we set up, recent successful visits were made to entertain and talk with the elderly residents at Truscott Manor Residential Home. This is a new initiative for a sing song and one-to-one chat with the residents, some of whom do not have visitors.

**FGM:** Angela Edwards and Jane Oatey with other club supporters have attended meetings with MPs, the UN Women in London to continue the

work to encourage the prosecution of cutters, inform vulnerable girls and prevent FGM taking place on girls from this country.



**Ghana Education Project:** Two girls from Tunbridge Wells Girls Grammar School gave us an informative and entertaining talk on their trip to Ghana to work with the girls at Kyobobo School and a local primary school. There are now 160



girls receiving a high grade education. The new science block has been completed and donations of furniture and science equipment are being sought. From the pen of a pupil: "At school teachers always advise us to learn, to be neat and to be respectful. I also feel very comfortable at school. I like my class very much. We live happily at class, we are always busy and when it is fun time, we all

make fun. I like my class teacher very much because if he teaches us, I understand very much." from Patience Asaman

**"Love me Love me not" leaflets** have been printed and will be distributed to Imberhorne and Sackville schools.

**Tadpoles Swimming Club:** Janet Vanderhook regaled us with tales of Tadpoles and caused much hilarity. We provide financial support each year for the physically disabled by sponsoring two evening sessions and some members are regular wet helpers in the pool.



Working with the international charity **Days for Girls**, we have again been preparing feminine hygiene kits to be sent to girls in over 75 countries



in 6 continents. Without proper sanitary protection, girls' education is compromised as they do not attend school. At this

evening of sewing we produced over 20 drawstring bags containing washable feminine hygiene materials, soap, flannels and underwear.



### **Good Citizen Award:**

This involved Year 9 at Sackville School. At a morning assembly in February, two of our members informed the students about the work of SI and introduced the competition. Each student who applied described his/her contribution to the family, school and community and outlined what he/she considered to be a good citizen. From over 200 entries, a shortlist of 6 were chosen. Our four interviewers were very impressed by the high calibre of candidates. The worthy winner was presented with a certificate, plaque and cheque which was matched by the school. The five runners-up were awarded a certificate for inclusion in their Records of Achievement. This annual Award by SIEG is designed not only to encourage the students to consider their roles as



local citizens but also to demonstrate to the community that young people do play an important and valuable part in their community.

### **Club Talks**

We have two meetings a month, one includes a speaker and the other discusses Soroptimist activities. The speaker meetings included:

A talk on **The Red Cross**; another speaker gave two talks – a. Being a facilitator at **Lewes Prison** (the serious part of the talk); and b. his involvement in amateur **Ballroom Dancing** to a high level (a very different style of talk) .

We made a follow up visit from a previous talk, to **Canine Partners**, to see the dogs in training to help the physically challenged.

### **Social and Fundraising** Fund raising has followed



the usual fun and food at member's homes:

A Muffin morning at Angela's house; Garden party at Christina's home; another sale of the remaining jewellery, bags, etc from last year. The funds raised were added to our club charity funds. In March we had our annual friendship club visit to **63 Bayswater Rd**, the London SI Residential Club. Members took part in a weather report and a mystery radio play during a very interesting BBC tour.

**The Art Club**, run by Angela Edwards for SI members, held two painting days during the summer, one in Beryl



Barter's garden with donations raised for Pestalozzi International Village Trust; and the second a fun and friendship day painting at Goring by Sea.



*Yours in friendship from all the SIEG members*