



SISEE

Soroptimist International
South East England Region
Newsletter

Rising to the Challenge



June 2012



PRESIDENT'S POINTS

Message from our President Hilary Rowberry

It feels amazing that I am half way through my Presidency and having visited all the Soroptimist Clubs of the South East England Region I have seen the strength and caring of all their members for each other and most importantly the exciting programme action, and challenges, they undertake locally, nationally and internationally.

Personally I must thank my executive colleagues and Soroptimist friends for their support so freely given and promised for our future projects.

As May has arrived I would like to welcome aboard all those new Presidents and club officers who are now one month into their new roles. I hope that you find the job interesting and invigorating. To those who have come to the end of their term "**thank you**" for all your hard work over the past year.

Having just read statistics like these recently:

- *1.1 billion people do not have access to safe drinking water*
- *2.4 billion people do not have access to adequate sanitation*
- *The average distance that women in Africa and Asia walk to collect water is 6 kilometres*
- *In developing countries, 91 children out of 1,000 die before their fifth birthday*
- *Of the 6 billion people in today's world, 1.2 billion live below \$1 per day*
- *The amount of money that the richest 1% of the world's people make each day equals what the poorest 57% make each year*

It made me realise why we Soroptimists are so passionate about our theme of "Educate to Lead" and why we should continue to work **SMARTER**, not harder, to **educate, empower and enable** women and girls to reach their potential – wherever they are.

Our Federation President Maureen McGuire has kindly agreed to attend the Sunday July 8th Chartering Ceremony for Lewes and is looking forward to being with us in the South East Region. Closing Hayward Heath's club was sad but we are thrilled about Lewes Club's Charter and Brighton club's development. Huge thanks again to Anne Hudson and the Lewes extension team as well as Cindy Tehrani and the Brighton extension team.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS
Membership Officer Report Helen Schortz



Hi There!

Members of the Regional Executive and I have been attending the two potential new clubs in South East England.

The fantastic news, which I hope everyone has heard, is that the Lewes and District Club will be Chartered in July with Federation President Maureen Maguire attending.

Well done to the founding members of the Club; to Anne Hudson and the extension team members.

In Brighton, Hove and District the meetings are developing very well. Numbers are gradually increasing. The attendees have taken several more steps forward on the PA they want to be involved in: which starts with pulling up Spanish Bluebells from a contaminated woodland and further plans on their participation in the Race for Life (Cancer UK).

Across the Region I have been told of several new members being inducted; do let me know as President Hilary likes to send a welcoming letter.

PROGRAMME ACTION TOPICS (PAT)
PA Officer Report Ann Reeves



Please see UKPAC Newsletter attached.

Sevenoaks Soroptimists and Guides join forces

Empowering women and girls was a key theme at Sevenoaks Soroptimists annual President's lunch recently. Ann Wicks Knole, Division Commissioner Girlguiding UK, was special guest at the occasion at St Julian's Club.

Soroptimist President Sandra Worsdall explained about the links the national organisation for professional and business women is forging with the Guides. Locally the Guides helped the group with a fundraising bridge drive for the Rockdale Appeal to help provide new facilities for elderly residents in Sevenoaks which raised £1020.



Five Soroptimist Clubs were represented at the lunch including Beckenham, Lewes and Tunbridge Wells and a special guest was Hilary Rowberry, Soroptimist South East Regional President, whose own club is East Grinstead.

Photo: Hilary Rowberry, Soroptimist South East Regional President; Cllr Margaret Crabtree, Town Mayor of Sevenoaks Sandra Worsdall, Sevenoaks Soroptimist President and Ann Wicks, Division Commissioner Girlguiding UK receive flowers at Sevenoaks Soroptimists annual lunch.

S I Gravesend donates £1,500 to local charities

Gravesend & District Soroptimist Club presented cheques of £500 each to three local charities at their AGM on April 17.

Outgoing President Isobel Kesby made the presentations to Ms Carol Stone, Chief Executive of EllenorLions Hospices; Mrs Annette Moorby, Operations Manager for North Kent Women's Aid and Mrs Sheila Buckley, Joint Fundraising and Communications Manager, DGSMyourChoice, a local charity affiliated to the Royal Mencap Society.

Pictured left to right: Annette Moorby, North Kent Women's Aid; Carol Stone, EllenorLions Hospices; Club President Isobel Kesby and Sheila Buckley, DGSMyourChoice.



The club, which this year celebrates 60 years of voluntary service in the community, raised over £5,000 in the 2011/12 club year in support of local, national and Soroptimist charities. Highlights of the fundraising year included a barbershop musical evening, a garden safari, charity coffee morning, a grand draw and a quiz evening.

Members also organised a health awareness morning with speakers on ovarian and prostate cancers; took young carers tenpin bowling; hosted an afternoon tea for adult carers; worked with a local school in support of literacy; is supporting Dartford Grammar School for Girls in the continuation of their healthy living project; was instrumental in the setting up of an Osteoporosis Support Group locally, and has ongoing commitments with its friendship link club in Freetown, Sierra Leone, the most recent being the building of two blocks of toilets at a local school.

Policing the Olympics

SI East Grinstead's three Presidents for their Golden Anniversary Year, Angela Edwards, Jane Griffiths, and Alison Skinner welcomed Chief Inspector Justina Beekin as the first speaker of their year. The topic was "Policing the Olympics" and many "Soroptimisters" and guests attended.



We heard that it will be the largest ever peacetime security policing in the UK and Justina quoted the figures involved which were staggering and almost impossible to imagine. There are over ten and a half thousand athletes competing in twenty six main sports at thirty four venues, and twenty paraplegic sports at twenty one venues. There will be twenty thousand plus media representatives and over ten million tickets have been sold. Four and a half million extra visitors will descend on the games spending two billion pounds and generating sixty thousand jobs.

The Olympic flame which is lit at the Temple of Hera in Greece will travel to Great Britain in a special plane, and torches lit from it will be carried by chosen runners all over the country until the final one lights up the torch in the Olympic Stadium and the games will begin.

Angela Edwards

News from Number 63

It is all happening at our Soroptimist Residential Club! The Number 63 June Newsletter is attached.

Congratulations to SI Croydon ...

To celebrate the 85th Anniversary
of **Soroptimist International of Croydon and District**
four Science Awards of £250 each
are being offered to Year 8 girls

During this anniversary year, the Croydon Soroptimists are offering four Science Awards of £250 each for environment projects devised by Year 8 girls. The purpose of these awards is to encourage girls to take an interest in science and to develop their research, planning and communication skills.

Croydon Schools are being invited to submit projects by the closing date of 24 January 2013. A judging panel will consider the submissions during February and March 2013 and the awards will be presented on 11 April 2013.

Full details may be downloaded from the Croydon Club website www.sigbi.org/croydon/

Soroptimist International of Croydon and District held its inaugural meeting on 23 May 1927 in Grants of Croydon. The first Club President was Mrs Bessie Roberts who was elected the first woman Alderman of Croydon Borough Council in 1935.

During these 85 years, Croydon Club has supported many local charities and organisations, undertaken many projects and donated many thousands of pounds. In 1993 the Club was instrumental in producing the "How to..." Guide for Croydon's Carers. This handbook is still very much valued today and regularly reproduced by the Whitgift Foundation.

In 2001, in partnership with the Education Department, Croydon Club undertook a survey of working schoolchildren. The resulting report "All work and no play?" was featured on the BBC2 Working Lunch programme.

A party for Croydon's Young Carers has been held annually for 11 years and, in September, the Club will launch the third Annual LOUD & PROUD public speaking competition for Year 6 girls.



On 23 May 2012 members, past members, friends and special guest Past International President Hilary Page, joined together for a fish and chip lunch to celebrate Croydon Club's 85th Birthday.

SI Eastbourne's Charity Concert

A charity concert at the Pavilion, Hailsham, East Sussex organised by the Eastbourne Club, raised more than £500 for Eastbourne Lifeboats. The performers were young people from the Hastings and Rother Area Music Centre, part of East Sussex Music Service.

The concert included a raffle which raised £168 with prizes being donated by Hailsham businesses, David Hoad Photography, Callenders Restaurant, Ashley Adams jewellers and Tesco. Guests included the Mayor and Mayoress of Hailsham, Councillor and Mrs Jeff Bentley-Astor, Mr Mark Sawyer, coxswain of the Eastbourne Lifeboat and Dr Jane Mercer, chairman of the Eastbourne RNLi funding raising committee.

The programme included performances by the centre's Jazz and Blues band and Flute Fusion, who were recent semi-finalists in the National Festival of Youth Music, the Percussion ensemble and Flute groups with Gordon Dodridge, Regional Leader of the Centre introducing the performers.

Eastbourne Lifeboats were the charity chosen by joint presidents, Gloria Pearce and Barbara Stanbury. During the year more than £2,000 was raised.

Picture shows:

The Mayor, Gloria Pearce (President), Mayoress, Mrs Debbie Bentley-Astor, and Barbara Stanbury (President).



Beckenham & District celebrate their 60th!

The Beckenham Club celebrated its 60th birthday in style with a Friendship Weekend from 25th to 27th May 2012. The festivities started with an informal supper for club members to greet our visitors from Germany, Holland, Suffolk and Scotland.



We were lucky to have glorious sunny weather for a visit to Hever castle and a lovely lunch on Saturday. *The photo shows Presidents Karen and Dinah with our visitors from Germany, Suffolk and Scotland*

We revisited Chislehurst Golf Club, the venue for our 50th, for our formal dinner on Saturday evening. The magnificent surroundings (where else could you find the death certificate of a French Emperor?) were the backdrop to good company and food.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Bromley joined us, and now know much more about Soroptimism! Hilary Rowberry and her husband along with Soroptimists from many other clubs made our celebration even more special. We were especially pleased to welcome our Soroptimist sisters from our mother club, Croydon. The entertainment was provided by a magician, causing much amusement and amazement as he visited each table.



Sunday was spent on the South Bank with a guided tour – and, of course, lunch.

We have received invitations to visit Solingen and Walcheron, Holland so look forward to sustaining and developing our European links.

Presidents Karen and Dinah thank everyone from the Region who supported us.

SI Canterbury Pamper & Well-Being Day

All profits to the East Kent Cancer Mammography Appeal

Saturday, 30 June 10 am – 4 pm at Harvey Hall, Kent & Canterbury Hospital
Free parking

Body Massage, Reflexology, Reiki, Indian Head Massage, Manicure, Pedicure,
Eyebrow threading. Refreshments .. and much more.

For full details and booking form please contact
Carol Reed, SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL ~ CANTERBURY
01227 451192
carol.reed@care4free.net

Are you Publicising your Programme Action work? *from Hilary Rowberry*

Follow this checklist!

1. Upload the details of your project immediately onto the SI database
To inform the UN of the work going on across the world
2. Use the wording that you needed to upload above to develop an article
which you can send to local newspaper along with photos
3. Send the same article to your local Parish magazine and any other local
Magazines you know of.
4. Put the article and photos onto your club website.
5. Email the article and photos to the Region website
6. Send the article and photos to the Soroptimist News
7. Other possibilities: Send the same article to

SI website, UKPAC website, SIGBI website, Lady Links

If you have other ideas for publicity to add to the list.....please let Jill Townsend know.