





Section One 1937 to 1949

President & Date	Profession & Achievements	Our Club	SIGBI Federation Activities	World Events
<p>FOUNDER PRESIDENT</p> <p>Miss Edith Base 1937 – 1939</p> 	<p>Journalist (with 'The Journal' newspaper).</p> <p>In 1942 Miss Base transferred to the Greater London Soroptimist Club as she took a War Time post as Women's Press Liaison Officer to the Rt.Hon. Ernest Bevin M.P. - Minister of Labour & National Service in Churchill's War time Coalition Government.</p>  <p>Atlantic City International meeting in 1938. Left is Rhona Cunningham (SI Sunderland), Edith is second left and the other two ladies are members from Yorkshire.</p>	<p>Membership reached 85 in the first two years of the club. Members supported a Youth Careers Advisory Service.</p> <p>S.I. Sunderland was a 'daughter' club and chartered in 1938.</p> <p>The North East Divisional Union was founded in 1936 - this area included Yorkshire and meetings were held in Leeds.</p>	<p>The Federation of Great Britain & Ireland was established in 1934.</p> <p>In 1938 Soroptimist International Association was founded with 3 Federations - Great Britain & Ireland; the Americas (including Canada) and Europe.</p> <p>The 1st International Convention was held in Atlanta City, USA in June 1938 and Miss Base (our Founder President) attended.</p> <p>The Federation supported clubs and regions in the work of : -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Setting up several Housing schemes for single women. - 30 Austrian Refugees from Vienna were rescued and resettled. - Spanish Relief programme for Basque Children. - International support for Mother's Day Fund for Refugees. 	<p>The Coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth: 12 May 1937</p> <p>The pre-war Munich Agreement was signed: 30 September 1938 : Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain.</p> <p>Great Britain declares war on Germany and evacuations start from London: 3 September 1939</p> <p>Blackout Restrictions imposed: July 1939</p>


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<p>Dr Dorothea W. Sinton 1939 – 1941</p> 	<p>Medical Practitioner working in 'Women's Advisory Clinics' - particularly in Scotswood and Low Fell areas of Tyneside. She was a passionate supporter of women's rights to family planning and an advocate for women doctors to be accepted to work alongside their male colleagues.</p> <p>Dr Sinton left the club in 1966 due to pressure of work.</p>	<p>A Fellowship sub-committee was formed for the need to keep those members who were now serving in H.M.Forces, or had been evacuated, in touch with the club.</p> <p>A Club study circle held 6 meetings on International Affairs.</p> <p>In 1940 the club agreed to replace a broken tree that had been one of those planted to commemorate the foundation of the club and the coronation - in a Recreation Ground.</p>	<p>Federation projects included :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the funding of 4 Ambulances that were presented to the War Office. - P.O.W. Parcels Fund. - the provision of wirelesses and comforts for ambulance workers. - support for Mrs. Churchill's Russian Red Cross Appeal. - training for canteen workers. 	<p>War time Coalition Government led by Winston Churchill. Dunkirk Evacuation completed:4 June 1940 Battle of Britain:10 July 1940 Clothing rationing introduced: June 1941 Pearl Harbour attacked by Japanese and so bringing Japan into the War against Great Britain and U.S.A.: 7 December 1941 National Service Act.No.2 gave Government power to put women in uniform: December 1941.</p>


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<p>Miss Olive M. Hicks 1941 - 1943</p> 	<p>Designer in Fine Art & Design at King's College, Newcastle (now Newcastle University).</p> <p>Miss Hicks died in December 1943.</p> <p>She designed the silver and turquoise ceremonial chain worn by Club Presidents.</p>	<p>The club received gifts from America to distribute from S.I. Beverley Hills in California including 44 food parcels. Provided help to the Anglo-Soviet Union and Abyssinian women. Entertained the girls from the Balloon Barrage. Luncheon meetings ceased due to catering troubles. A Garden Party was held at the home of member Mrs. Evelyn Lambert (to become the Federation President in 1967 - 68.)</p> <p>Following the death of Miss Hicks in 1943, a bronze bust of her was commissioned and an annual memorial prize was established in the Art School at King's College.</p>	<p>The Federation Benevolent Fund Constitution was approved and £1,000 capital was raised by December 1942.</p> <p>The Federation Benevolent Fund sent aid to the China Fund - also funds sent to the RAF Benevolent Fund; Polish Relief Fund; Wool Funds; The Red Cross and to Savings Groups.</p> <p>At this time, membership was based on 'category' and a discussion was held on having "Housewife" as a category.</p>	<p>War time Coalition Government led by Winston Churchill. The Russians relieve Stalingrad: 23 November 1942 The Beverage Report on the founding of the Welfare State: November 1942.</p> <p>The Allies Conference in Tehran (Churchill; Roosevelt and Stalin). 28Nov.-1 Dec. 1943</p>


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<p>Miss Alice E. Curry 1943 - 1945</p> 	<p>Private Tutor and Elementary School Teacher.</p> <p>Miss Curry was the first Extension Officer of Northern England. It was due to her leadership and unceasing work that the Northern England Union came into being.</p> <p>Miss Curry was an Honorary Member of S.I. Newcastle upon Tyne and died in March 1950.</p>	<p>Miss Curry expressed 3 aims for her years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - more publicity and participation in public and municipal work (achieved club representation on Newcastle Council of Social Services; Northumberland Housing Advisory Council and the Newcastle Standing Conference.) - to improve the club's financial position as membership had dropped with members leaving to serve their country and others under extreme pressures at work and therefore resigning from the club. - to raise attendance at club meetings. <p>It is noted that although the Club was founded in 1937, World War II quickly took its toll. In 1939 there were 86 members by 1945 some 8 members had joined the Armed Forces and 27 others had left the club due to 'pressure of work'.</p>	<p>Aid sent to the China Fund and to the Stalingrad Hospital Fund. 'Nobody's children' - an appeal for Aunts.</p> <p>Contributions to the Moral Welfare Association and to Old People's Welfare.</p> <p>Raising funds for Post War Relief Fund effort - concerts; whist drives; bring and buy sales; raffles and draws - reached over £10,000 in 1945.</p>	<p>War time Coalition Government led by Winston Churchill.</p> <p>D Day landing in Normandy: 6 June 1941</p> <p>Blackout restrictions lifted: April 1945.</p> <p>National Health Service CMD 6502 and Social Insurance CMD 6550: March 1944</p> <p>Post War Organisations of private domestic employment CMD 6650: 1945</p> <p>Victory in Europe Day: 8m May 1945.</p> <p>Atom Bomb in Hiroshima : 6 August 1945</p> <p>Victory in Japan Day: 15 August 1945</p>

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<p>Mrs Evelyn Lambert 1945 - 1947</p> 	<p>Solicitor.</p> <p>1950 moved to Gateshead to be a Founder Member of their new Club.</p> <p>1957 - 1958 President of the Northern Divisional Union.</p> <p>1967 - 1968 Federation President of Great Britain and Ireland.</p> <p>She made great constitutional changes that enabled members who retired to retain their membership as 'Past Service' members.</p> <p>A member for 35 years she died in 1974.</p>	<p>Mrs. Lambert donated a Pendant and chain to be worn by the President Elect of S.I Northern England.</p> <p>S.I. Tynemouth club was chartered in 1947 with S.I. Newcastle upon Tyne being the 'mother' club.</p> <p>The 36th Federation Conference was held in Newcastle upon Tyne and as Federation President Evelyn Lambert was in the Chair.</p> <p>In December 1945 the club agreed to support the National Council of Women in their housing scheme for single women with limited income.</p> <p>Mrs Lambert was an Honorary member of S.I. Gateshead and of the Northern Region.</p>	<p>1946 - founded the Federation H.Q. in London to provide Federation Offices accommodation; overnight accommodation with catering and social activities.</p>	<p>Prime Minister : Clement Attlee</p> <p>U.S.A. declared the end of WWII 31 December 1946.</p> <p>First meeting of the United Nations in London: 10 January 1946</p> <p>International Court of Justice at the Hague inaugurated : 18 April 1946.</p> <p>The Council of Europe founded: 19 September 1946</p>

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<p>Mrs Lina Biltcliffe 1947 – 1949</p> 	<p>Principal of a Co-educational School.</p> <p>President of the Northern Divisional Union 1948 -1949.</p> <p>Mrs Biltcliffe died in 1970.</p>	<p>S.I. Morpeth & District was chartered in 1947 with S.I. Newcastle upon Tyne being the 'mother' club.</p> <p>On 4 September 1948 a new Divisional Union Northern England was formed (from the N.E.D.U. in 1936.). 9 Clubs existed in Durham; Hartlepool; Middlesbrough; Newcastle upon Tyne; South Shields; Sunderland; Tynemouth; with Darlington and Morpeth awaiting their Charters.</p>	<p>1948 : The 1st Post War Conference was held in Harrogate with SIGBI and S.I. America.</p> <p>October 1948 : 63 Bayswater Road was bought for Soroptimist H.Q. by selling £5 shares. £17,500 was the purchase price for the building and unrestricted freehold.</p>	<p>Prime Minister : Clement Attlee</p> <p>12 Feb.1947: Christian Dior launch his "New Look" in Paris.</p> <p>22 May 1947 : The Cold War begins (and ends in 1991) with the USA fight to prevent to spread of communism.</p> <p>August 1947 : Partition of India to form Pakistan and India.</p> <p>20 November 1947 : Princess Elizabeth (to become Queen Elizabeth II) marries the Duke of Edinburgh.</p> <p>12 May 1949 : Berlin Blockade ends.</p> <p>12 August 1949: Geneva Convention agreed.</p> <p>April 1949 : NATO established.</p> <p>28 April 1949: The Commonwealth of Nations established.</p>