




## Section Two 1949 - 1969

President & Date	Profession & Achievements	Our Club	SIGBI Federation Activities	World Events
<p>Mrs Harriet P. Pearey 1949 - 1951</p> 	<p>Chiropodist</p> <p>Later Chairman of the Newcastle and Gateshead Society for the Blind.</p> <p>President of the Northern Divisional Union 1952 - 1953</p> <p>Mrs. Pearey died in 1972.</p>	<p>S.I. Gateshead was Chartered in 1950 with S.I. Newcastle upon Tyne as the 'mother' club. (S.I. Gateshead closed in 1999).</p> <p>From the 1950 to 1982 members organised regular parties for blind people with catering and transport.</p>		<p>Prime Minister : Clement Attlee.</p> <p>The Archers' the world's longest running radio series broadcasts its first episode.</p> <p>General Election is won by the Labour Party with Clement Attlee as Prime Minister.</p> <p>The world's first charge card is used in New York by the Diners Club.</p>


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<p>Miss Ethel G. Attwood 1951 - 1952</p> 	<p>Matron of Newcastle Eye Hospital.</p> <p>Miss Attwood left the club in 1957 due to pressure of work.</p>	<p>No club records available.</p>		<p>Prime Minister : Sir Winston Churchill.</p> <p>3 May 1951 King George VI opens London's Royal Festival Hall and the Festival of Britain opens.</p>


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<p>Miss Helen Wadsworth 1952 – 1953</p> 	<p>Librarian (Head of book selection at Newcastle Central Library )</p> <p>Miss Wadsworth died in 1981.</p>	<p>Miss Wadsworth's aims for the club year were :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- service by individual Soroptimists on public bodies.</li> <li>- social functions helped to maintain club "friendliness" but there were still problems in providing club volunteers for the Pensioners Club.</li> </ul> <p>S.I. Whitley Bay was chartered in 1953 with S.I. Newcastle upon Tyne being their 'mother club'.</p>		<p>Prime Minister : Sir Winston Churchill</p> <p>6 February 1952 King George VI dies.</p> <p>18 May 1952 Ann Davison is the 1st woman to single handedly sail the Atlantic ocean.</p> <p>2 June 1953 The Coronation of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II</p> <p>5th July 1953 the 1st meeting of the European Economic Council ( EEC)</p>


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<p>Mrs Ethel Adams 1953 – 1954</p> 	<p>Headmistress (Junior Girls Secondary School).</p> <p>Later, Mrs Adams became the Women's Organiser of Northumberland Council of Social Services.</p>	<p>Mrs Adams transferred to S.I. Gateshead club in 1971.</p> <p>No club records available.</p>		<p>Prime Minister : Sir Winston Churchill.</p> <p>28 February 1953 James Watson and Francis Crick of the University of Cambridge announce their discovery of the DNA molecule - published on 25 April.</p> <p>26 March 1953 Jonas Salk announces his Polio vaccine and widespread vaccination programmes start the following year.</p> <p>29 May 1953 Sir Edmund Hilary ( New Zealand) and Tenzing Norway ( Nepal) are the 1st men to reach the summit of Mount Everest.</p>


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<p>Mrs Alice Topping 1954 – 1955</p> 	<p>Joint Proprietor of a Motor Garage and Motor Engineers.</p> <p>Mrs. Topping died in 1972.</p>	<p>No club records available.</p>		<p>Prime Minister : Sir Winston Churchill.</p> <p>6 May 1954 Roger Bannister runs the 1st sub-four minute mile in Oxford.</p> <p>4 July 1954 Food Rationing in Great Britain ends after 14 years.</p>


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<p data-bbox="259 392 528 456">Miss Lucy Frossell 1955 – 1956</p> 	<p data-bbox="551 392 835 488">Inspector of Schools (Needlecraft Subjects).</p> <p data-bbox="551 528 835 592">Miss Frossell died in 1970.</p>	<p data-bbox="857 392 1420 727">The club had a representative on the joint housing scheme with National Council of Women. Report on the welfare of the women living there. The house was at 18 Osborne Avenue in Jesmond. This housing scheme was eventually managed by the Newcastle Housing Improvement Trust as the maintenance costs were rising. Transfer of ownership was in 1973.</p>		<p data-bbox="1834 392 2069 456">Prime Minister : Sir Anthony Eden</p> <p data-bbox="1834 496 2208 624">The Freedom Charter of the Anti-apartheid South African Alliance is approved.</p> <p data-bbox="1834 695 2197 791">Ruth Ellis becomes the last Woman in the UK to be executed.</p> <p data-bbox="1834 831 2170 863">The Vietnam War begins.</p>

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<p>Mrs Doris Young 1956 – 1957</p> 	<p>Local Authority Housing Officer.</p>	<p>No club records available.</p>		<p>Prime Minister : Harold Macmillan.</p> <p>Egypt seizes the Suez Canal.</p> <p>United Methodist Church in the USA decides to grant women full ordination status and end racial segregation.</p> <p>1st Eurovision Song Contest.</p>

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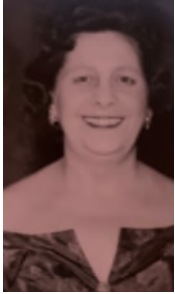
<b>President &amp; Date</b>	<b>Profession &amp; Achievements</b>	<b>Our Club</b>	<b>SIGBI Federation Activities</b>	<b>World Events</b>
<p>Mrs. Agnes Malcolm 1957 – 1958</p> 	<p>Director of a Lithographic and Box makers.</p>	<p>No club records available.</p>		<p>Prime Minister: Harold Macmillan</p> <p>Suez Canal re-opens.</p> <p>USA establish the Commission on Civil Rights with the Civil Rights Act 1957.</p>




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<p>Mrs Harriet P. Pearey 1958 -1959</p> 	<p>Chiropodist</p> <p>Later Chairman of the Newcastle &amp; Gateshead Home Teaching Society for the Blind.</p> <p>President of the Northern Divisional Union in 1952 - 1953</p> <p>Also President of S.I. Newcastle in 1949 - 1951</p>	<p>No club records available.</p>	<p>European Conference held in Paris in 1958. Mrs Helen Staig of S.I. Newcastle upon Tyne attended.</p>	<p>Prime Minister : Harold Macmillan</p> <p>The European Economic Commission comes into being.</p> <p>The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament adopts their Peace symbol.</p> <p>Queen Elizabeth II 's son (Prince Charles) to become the Prince of Wales.</p>


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<p>Miss Aldyth E. Heywood 1959 -1960</p> 	<p>Clothing Industry Buyer</p>	<p>Miss Heywood recalls that the outstanding memory of her President's year was a request from Soroptimist H.Q. for clubs to make contributions towards closing a displaced persons camp in Germany. Newcastle Soroptimists organised a 'Daffodil Fayre', a mannequin parade, stalls and other activities, all held in the Durrant Hall. It proved to be quite successful and we had the satisfaction in knowing that we had, in some small way, helped homeless people in one particular camp.</p>		<p>Prime Minister : Harold Macmillan</p> <p>Alaska and Hawaii admitted to the USA.</p> <p>Barbie dolls created.</p> <p>Fidel Castro comes to power in Cuba.</p>


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<p>Mrs Alice Topping 1960 - 1961</p> 	<p>Joint Proprietor of a Motor Garage and Motor Engineers.</p> <p>Mrs. Topping died in 1972.</p>	<p>No club records available.</p>		<p>Prime Minister : Harold Macmillan</p> <p>USA enters the Vietnam War.</p> <p>USA approves the 1st oral contraceptive pill.</p> <p>The Cuban Revolution takes place.</p>


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<p>Mrs Myra Leitch (nee Brook) 1962 – 1962</p> 	<p>Civic Service Regional Officer of Youth Employment.</p>	<p>No club records available.</p>		<p>Prime Minister : Harold Macmillan</p> <p>The black &amp; white £5 note ceases to be legal tender in UK.</p> <p>South Africa withdraws from the Commonwealth of Nations to become a Republic.</p> <p>UK applies for membership of EEC.</p> <p>The Berlin Wall is constructed.</p>


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<p>Mrs Anne Forsythe 1962 – 1963</p> 	<p>Clothing Industry (Gown Specialist )</p>	<p>Mrs. Forsythe records the highlights of her year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- I attended the International Soroptimists Conference in Helsinki when 750 Soroptimists descended on the City. There were 22 countries represented, with 240 participants from Great Britain and Ireland. The theme of the Conference was 'Youth' and Dr. L. Junteai ( Finland) spoke on "The Child in a Changing Society:"</li> <li>- We were invited to Finnish Soroptimist homes and this was a delightful and informal experience and a good chance for a chat to Soroptimists from other countries.</li> <li>- Our club's 25th Silver Anniversary Dinner was held at the Station Hotel when all the Past Presidents were announced individually and made an entrance down the staircase.</li> </ul>		<p>Prime Minister : Harold Macmillan</p> <p>Telstar relays the 1st live trans-Atlantic television signal.</p> <p>Cuban Missile Crisis in October.</p> <p>The first James Bond film 'Dr No' has its premiere.</p>


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<p>Mrs Mary Summers 1963 – 1964</p> 	<p>Matron of St.Mary Magdelene Hospital for the Aged.</p> <p>Later Branch Officer of the British Red Cross.</p> <p>Mrs Summers died in 1981.</p>	<p>Club discussion on the 'Building Fund' which was originally intended to purchase a club meeting place. In 1974 it was agreed to allocate the interest on this account to pay for club meeting rooms hire.</p> <p>Club supported Conrad House (opened in 1957 ) and its work for people in their last stages of life. Conrad House was closed when the new Marie Curie Hospice was opened in 1995,</p>		<p>Prime Minister : Harold Macmillan ( until October 1963 ). Sir Alec Douglas-Home</p> <p>March 6th is the 1st frost free day after many months of the coldest winter weather recorded.</p> <p>The Beeching Report results in huge cuts to UK railway networks.</p> <p>November 22 : President John F.Kennedy is assassinated.</p>

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<p>Miss Nell E. Sponton 1964 – 1965</p> 	<p>Proprietor of Ladies Outfitting.</p>	<p>No club records available.</p>		<p>Prime Minister : Sir Alec Douglas-Home (until October 1964) then Harold Wilson.</p> <p>Nelson Mandela is sentenced to Life Imprisonment in South Africa and sent to Robben Island prison.</p> <p>The death penalty is abolished in the UK.</p>

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<p>Mrs Kathleen M. Bodey 1965 – 1966</p> 	<p>Manageress - Residential Club ( Northern Counties Club in Eldon Square)</p> <p>Mrs Bodey died in 1984</p>	<p>No club records available.</p>		<p>Prime Minister : Harold Wilson</p> <p>The state funeral of Sir Winston Churchill is held in London in January 1965.</p> <p>Cigarette advertising on British TV is banned.</p> <p>The 'Sound of Music' opens in New York.</p> <p>The Pennine Way opens in the U.K.</p> <p>The Mini-skirt makes its first fashion appearance in Australia.</p>




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<p>Mrs Helen Staig 1966 – 1967</p> 	<p>Company Director ( Wholesale Distribution Pharmaceutical Preparations)</p>	<p>Mrs Staig records that she became aware of Soroptimism through her sister-in-law Mrs Rita Appleby who was then President of S.I.Gateshead. Mrs Staig became a member of S.I.Newcastle upon Tyne in 1958 where she made many friends and felt involved in an important movement. She attended many conferences, the most memorable being the European Conference held in Paris in 1958. It was a wonderful experience, every day was thrilling and instructive.</p> <p>in 1966 she became President of the Newcastle Club and the highlight was the Annual Dinner at the Station Hotel. She chose to support the Salvation Army as my chosen charity due to their outstanding work.</p> <p>Her role as President brought me a great deal of satisfaction and she felt privileged to have been a member of such a worthwhile organisation.</p>		<p>Prime Minister : Harold Wilson</p> <p>Indira Gandhi becomes Prime Minister of India in January 1966.</p> <p>The UK ceases all trade with Rhodesia.</p> <p>General Election and Harold Wilson leads the Labour party with an increased majority of 96.</p> <p>October - Aberfan disaster in Wales.</p>

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<p>Mrs Catherine Webster 1967 - 1968</p> 	<p>Clothing ( Corsetiere )</p>	<p>Mrs Webster reports that hers was an interesting year but somewhat unnerving as she remembers it as the era when "Beatle-mania" took the country by storm, even to the extent that guest speakers were known to vanish mysteriously when the "Beatles" were giving a concert in Newcastle's City Hall !</p>		<p>Prime Minister : Harold Wilson</p> <p>The first automatic cash machine is installed by Barclays Bank in Enfield.</p> <p>The U.K. formerly applies for European Economic Council membership.</p> <p>The 1967 Abortion Act is passed.</p> <p>The world's first heart transplant is performed in South Africa by Christiaan Barnard.</p>

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<p>Miss Marjorie Godtschaik 1968 – 1969</p> 	<p>Music Teacher of Pianoforte and Harmony.</p>	<p>.No club records available</p>		<p>Prime Minister : Harold Wilson</p> <p>4 April 1968 Martin Luther King was shot dead.</p>