



Soroptimist International Yorkshire Region Newsletter



SUMMER 2017

Yorkshire Clubs Celebrate IWD

On International Women's Day SI Garforth Elmet club members had a very successful day at Tesco Garforth engaging with a number of lady and gentlemen shoppers and explaining about IWD and Soroptimist International.



Photo: Pat Kilbane and Val Jenkins with the display showing a variety of club activities and wider SI projects.

On 8 March, Harrogate & District Soroptimists held an event to celebrate International Women's Day and took the opportunity to showcase how women are proactively working together in the community to make a difference. Representatives of community groups from across the Harrogate District, including Probus, Inner Wheel, Girl Guides, and the Women's Institute, supported the event.

Jennie Levick, Soroptimist International Yorkshire President, welcomed everyone, with a reminder that this date, is one which has been marked across the world since 1908, as an opportunity to join hands together to celebrate the achievements of women.

The Harrogate Ladies College Choir gave a moving performance especially tailored to International

Women's Day with songs including 'In Flanders Fields' and 'Love Divine'.

The evening was an opportunity to celebrate local achievements as the Harrogate & District Soroptimists Young Woman in the Community Award was presented. The quality of submissions had been very high, so the award was made to two joint winners Amy Honeysett and Ellen Young in recognition of their selfless volunteering work. The Mayor of Harrogate, Councillor Nick Brown and Pat Shore, SI Harrogate & District President, presented the awards.

One of North Yorkshire's top police officers, Deputy Chief Constable Lisa Winward, gave the Key Note Speech on 'Safeguarding Women and Children in Today's Society', which is a subject she is passionate about. Stating that it is everybody's business to banish fear from harm and vulnerability, she also emphasised the need to encourage people to challenge society norms.



L-R: Jennie Levick, SI Yorkshire Regional President; Lisa Winward, Deputy Chief Constable, North Yorkshire Police; The Mayor of Harrogate.

President Pat Shore closed the event saying 'Thank you

to everyone who has contributed to make this an evening with a difference and to those who have joined with us to celebrate International Women's Day'.

Northallerton & District Soroptimists met on 9th March to celebrate International Women's Day where we had a very entertaining talk from Nicky Sadler from Get Ahead Hats. Over sixty people attended including Soroptimists from Durham, Harrogate, Scarborough, Middlesbrough and Richmond.

Nicky explained what type of hat we should pick for a wedding or a trip to Ladies Day at the races. She is able to customise a hat to match the outfit you are wearing and as a trained milliner advise what shape and style would suit you best.



L-R: Nicky Sadler, Sheila Stewart & Ann Whitewick (SI)

Following on from our refreshments we were able to try on all the lovely hats she had brought along

Our chosen charity to benefit from this event was Northallerton Girl Guides

IWD

- Yorkshire clubs held a variety of events to celebrate International Women's Day

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Celebrating a successful year

SI Beverley & District

Members of the club have been fund raising this year for the Da Vinci Robot machine at Castle Hill Hospital, Cottingham. The £2million machine was bought by a local business man and is being used to treat patients who have either prostate or bowel cancer. The machine has not been taken over by the NHS although it is used to treat NHS patients. The current funding is by donations and fund raising. Each robotic arm can be used only 15 times and then needs replacing at a cost of £950. President Trish chose this worthy cause as the club's Charity for her year of office.

A chocolate tombola was held in Beverley market on March 24th which raised £165.

Pictured setting up the stall are: Gill Fawcett, Sue Bates, Anne Lane



& Liz Lyle

On March 17th a most successful fashion show was held at Tickton Village Hall featuring outfits from The Beverley Dresser, Basler at Browns, The Crew Company and Collections. This well supported event raised the magnificent total of £1,512:10.



Pictured are members Liz Hallett and Jenny Heppenstall with Lynn Bennett who helped to model the outfits.

In the latest event, in April, members, led by Liz Hallett and supported by friends, held their most successful fund raiser to date. Neighbours around the village of Tickton were invited to open their garages or book a table in the village hall to sell all those items for which they had no further use. A team of ladies manned(!) the kitchen serving snacks and lunches. Others persuaded the many visitors to buy tombola tickets, knitted items and bric a brac. More than thirty garages were open and a dozen table tops offered everything from jewellery to art work. One group of very young ladies had made hair ribbons and slides to sell on the day.



Future Soroptimists for sure!

Local businesses and friends donated items to add to the success of the day. Over £2000 was raised towards the President's Charity.

The magnificent final total, raised over the year, of £4000 to be presented to surgeons from Castle Hill Hospital at the Club Cheque presentation evening in April.

Donation for RDA facilities

SI Castleford Normanton & District

SI Castleford Normanton and District members presented a cheque to Snydale Riding For the Disabled. In a large indoor arena the riders negotiate various items around a course. The money donated will be used to purchase equipment and more objects to place around the course to make it more interesting for the riders.



Triumphant Meru Float

In January 2017 at the first PAC meeting, the decision was taken to enter a float in this year's Gawthorpe Mayday procession and to concentrate on one theme, the Meru Women's garden project in Kenya. We had confirmation of the loan of the wagon and driver. The meetings became platforms for suggestions and ideas, with everyone's imagination working overtime. We held a coffee morning to raise funds to cover expenses and this was attended by many non Soroptimists. Once the ideas became realities then the hard work really started. Meetings now became serious hives of industry with sewing, sticking, stapling and eventually the collecting of everything relative to the 'Meru garden'. There



were banners depicting elephants, lions and giraffes; two beautiful ladies (built by our members) and boxes and boxes of fruit, vegetables, exotic flowers and trees.

As the day got closer and closer, then the excitement grew. Members were raiding



memory boxes for cuddly animals, and wardrobes for exotic looking caftans, dresses and scarves. Saturday May 6th...Mayday and members turned out to prepare the float. Although the weather was not exactly what we had hoped for, our ladies were full of enthusiasm and expectation that this year we would do better than last year and bag the first prize.



Everything fell into place very nicely, and all the ladies taking part were dressed as the Meru ladies would be. The result of all this industry was a colourful, exotic and vibrant display of everything which the ladies who tend the Meru garden do. A fitting tribute to the ladies of S.I.D. & D was the first prize for the float and first for fancy dress.



The garden theme continued with a visit to the Horticulture Centre at Kirkhamgate, Lindhill Nurseries where everyone enjoyed the tea and scones, and thanks to the staff for making us feel so welcome. The plants were very good too.

The following weekend members enjoyed the annual Garden Party at June and Roy's which raised an amazing amount of over £1100.00

SI Dewsbury & District

Supporting St George's Crypt

SI Garforth Elmet members collected toiletries and delivered the filled toilet bags to St George's Crypt for the people who make use of the facilities at the Crypt. They delivered 120 bags and had a very interesting visit to the Crypt.

L-R: Barbara Mackenley, Val Jenkins, Brenda de Carteret, Janet Bowden, Jane Richardson, Reetha Gopinathan, Angela Stocks, Ann Kurth



SI Garforth Elmet

Bags of support

SI Hallamshire

Yorkshire President Jennie, President Angela and members presented 30 bags of toiletries to Theresa Wilding and Jo Meagher managers from the “**Young Women’s Housing Project**” in Sheffield. Theresa and Jo gave an interesting and informative talk to members about the work of the charity. SI Hallamshire have chosen this charity to support for 2017-2018. The club will continue to provide practical help and fundraise throughout the year for this unique charity in Sheffield. Yorkshire Regional President Jennie a member of SI Hallamshire has as her theme for the year “Healthy



education for Living Positively in Yorkshire” and is delighted that this charity encompasses this ambition.

YWHP provides safe places to live, emotional support &

practical help for girls & young women aged 16-25 years affected by sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, and intimate partner abuse.

Meru comes to Ripon

SI Harrogate & District

The Ripon Home and Garden Event at Ripon Cathedral on 8 April, was an opportunity for the Harrogate & District Soroptimists to raise awareness of the Meru Women’s Garden Project and sell some of the delicious Meru Herbs Jams and Sauces.

It was a very busy day with many people visiting the stand to find out more about the project and to buy the jams. Tomato and Chilli sauce proved very popular and most of the jams were sold that were available to buy on the day.

Thanks to the creative skills of Club members, an amazing miniature model of the Club’s Harrogate Autumn Flower Show Silver Award winning Community Garden ‘Meru Garden Life’ was on display for the first time.

We certainly made people more aware of who we are and what we do, as well as raise awareness of the Meru project.



The Meru Women’s Garden Project Stand at the Ripon Home and Garden Event

SI Harrogate & District held their

AGM at the White Hart, Harrogate, on 19 April, at which they celebrated Pat Shore’s year of Presidency of the Club and welcomed in Nicola Harding as President for the next year.

We were delighted to be joined by honorary member Janet Haywood, who read the Objects and Purposes of Soroptimism.

Nicola’s charities for the year are the Alzheimer’s Society and supporting renal dialysis charities.

Teamwork is the theme for her year, which will have a fun start with the Harrogate & District Soroptimists’ Team playing in the Boroughbridge Lions Walking Football Tournament in April.

The AGM was an ideal opportunity to present Long Service Awards to members Elsie Johnston and Janet Morrow, who each have provided 25 years of service to the Club. (Sheree Brizzolara was unable to be present but will receive an award for 30 years of club service).



Photo L-R: IPP Pat Shore; Janet Morrow, Yorkshire President Jenni Levick, Elsie Johnston and President Nicola Harding. Yorkshire President, Jenni Levick, presented the awards, before

joining members in a tasty supper at the Fat Badger, Harrogate.

Members enjoyed an excellent day in Wetherby when the Tour De Yorkshire road cycling race whizzed through the town. (Nearly a quarter of the Club members are from the Wetherby Area.)

Working in partnership with Welcome to Wetherby, the Soroptimists provided light refreshments in the Town Hall from 8.30 a.m. till 4pm. Hot drinks were very popular, probably as it was a cool day.



Photo L-R: Liz Stickney, Janet Morrow, Pat Shore, John Shore, Ellie Foster

The Club raised over £440, which will be split between Welcome to Wetherby and the Club and Tour Charity – The Alzheimer’s Society.

It was an excellent opportunity to raise our profile in the Community, as well as our Soroptimist team having fun!

Community Awareness Day

Ilkley Soroptimists organised a Community Day for the public to find out more about local organisations, including arts and theatre groups, civic groups, health related groups and voluntary groups, for all ages. The day of exhibitions, demonstrations and entertainment cemented the President Rita's theme of interlinking circles of friendship.

L-R: Anne-Mary Inglehearn, President Rita Armitage, Angela St John, Margaret Cook



SI Ilkley

STOP PRESS

Ben Rhydding Open Gardens

On Saturday 24 June you are invited to view ten gardens in Ben Rhydding from 1pm to 5pm. Tickets are £5 and maps and routes are available from St John's Church on Bolling Road, Ilkley. LS29 8PN There will also be a variety of stalls and cream teas available at St John's. Proceeds are for the Meru Women's Garden Project in Kenya.

Jubilee Plans

Soroptimist Richmond & Dales are looking forward to a special year in 2017/18, when the club will celebrate its 60th Jubilee year. Many events are planned, and invitations have gone out to our friendship link groups in Zimbabwe, Switzerland, Scotland and Durham, and members look forward to welcoming our Soroptimist sisters to Richmond.

No less than TEN presidents were introduced for the year! The Jubilee committee invited long standing members to be 'President for a month', and each was presented with a white Yorkshire rose.

L-R: Sandy Baxter, Ann Potts, Margaret Clayson, Sue Fenwick, Shirley Thubron, Sheila Harrison, Angela



Edwards, Ann Morton. Absent: Mary Lovell, Judy Sheahan

SI Richmond & Dales

Grand Efforts

Selby Carers Count and Selby Young Carers are just two of the local charities who will benefit from an amazing Quiz evening held at Eggborough Village Hall. With over 90 people in 14 teams pitting their wits against each other in what has become an annual event, the evening raised a staggering £1000 plus. Quizmaster, Bob Hutchinson, put everyone through their paces with 100 questions, picture clues and cryptic clues. Supper was provided by SI Selby.

President Hilary Putman said "This was an excellent evening and members of Soroptimist International are thrilled that they have been able to raise so much money for the charities that we are supporting this year."

Selby Soroptimists were delighted to steward at the first Children's Reading Festival in Selby Abbey for three days from Thursday 23rd

March.

On Thursday and Friday members escorted groups of children from local primary schools in Selby district to listen to one of five authors in attendance at the Festival. The authors enthralled the children by presenting their books with illustrations, rhyming and rap, jokes and story telling.

On Saturday, Soroptimists ran the raffle and tombola stalls, which raised funds for future Children's Reading Festivals. Every child also received a Soroptimist Friendship bookmark, which help children to establish positive friendships and to recognise unfriendly, bullying behaviour.

Pat Griffiths, who organised the teams of Selby Soroptimists to cover stewarding duties for the whole Festival said "It was lovely to see and hear the children

interacting with the authors and enjoying the stories and books. Many of them came back on Saturday with their voucher to collect their free book. Children were walking down the Abbey aisle reading them!

Selby Soroptimists enjoyed being involved over the three days and congratulate Christina Gabbittas who inspired and organised the Festival - a very successful event."

Photo: The Saturday afternoon team from SI Selby with Christina Gabbittas



SI Selby

Wonderful Work for Whirlow

SI Sheffield

The 89th anniversary of Soroptimist International of Sheffield was celebrated in style at Halifax Hall with lunch for the Lord Mayor and Consort, Master and Mistress Cutler, SI Yorkshire President and other VIP guests from across the region, as well as a strong turn out from SI Sheffield.

This year's theme of International Women's Day – Be Bold – was continued when the guest speaker Penny Haslam spoke about her 'Great Grandmother's Bloomers.' She urged women to be bold, be active and let their voices be heard. Her Great Grandmother had been ridiculed and subjected to tomatoes thrown at her when she stepped out on a bicycle in 1890s wearing bloomers. Penny shared her media insider's knowledge from 20 years of working in the broadcast media about why we need to 'see' women in positive, active roles and positions of strength and power.

The Lord Mayor Denise Fox and the Master Cutler Richard Edwards praised the good work of the Soroptimists group in supporting the Charity Whirlow Farm Trust.



L-R: SI Yorkshire President Jennie Levick, Penny Haslam, Mistress Cutler, Master Cutler, SI Sheffield President Daphne, Lord Mayor of Sheffield

On Thursday 11th May, Soroptimist International Sheffield presented a cheque for a donation of £4111 to Whirlow Hall Farm Trust with the 120th Lord Mayor of Sheffield Councillor Denise Fox, in attendance for the presentation, a farm tour and afternoon tea in the recently renovated Whirlow Hall Farm Café. Trust Chief Executive Ben Davies was in attendance to extend sincere thanks to the ladies for all their hard work.

President Daphne chose the charity as she saw the benefits to children visiting first hand during her career in education. Daphne said 'when I taught in Sheffield I used to love taking groups there and was always impressed with the number

of physically and mentally handicapped children who benefit each year from the charity".



The local charity provides unique educational experiences to children and young people in Sheffield in a working farm environment. Their range of programmes benefit all children and especially those who find learning in a classroom difficult due to learning difficulties, or who may not otherwise have the opportunity to experience the countryside. Activities are designed to raise confidence and self esteem, develop team working and communication skills, unlock their potential and raise aspirations. Whirlow Hall Farm Trust is funded almost entirely by voluntary donations such as that made by the Soroptimists, and they are hoping for more support like this in the future.



SI Yorkshire President Jennie, Lord Mayor Denise, and SI Sheffield President Daphne

Throughout the year SI Sheffield has raised funds through a variety of events, including a Barbeque at the Farm, two fashion Shows, coffee mornings and from donations.

Soroptimist International Yorkshire Region

A Word from the Editor

A busy Spring and Summer as clubs celebrated IWD and held many successful events.

Looking forward to the Yorkshire Conference and summer break.

Liz Hayes

Diary Dates - 2017

July

Sat 1 Yorkshire Conference/regional development session
– The Source Academy, Meadowhall Sheffield

Mon 24 Regional Officers' Meeting (Evening)

September

Sat 16 RCM, St Xavier School, Richmond

October

Sat 7 Regional Officers' Meeting (Morning)

26-28 SIGBI Conference Cardiff

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - Sept 4 2017

Obituaries

Jean Potts SI Hallamshire

Jean Potts was a founder member of SI Hallamshire in 1971. She became the second President and subsequently held many different posts within the Club. She was involved in the club's first major programme action project, assisting with the opening of Home Farm Trust Fairthorn at Dore. This was a residential home for adults with learning difficulties, which promoted useful and fulfilling work, alongside contact with the community and fun.

In 1976 Jean was chosen as an official observer at International Conference and reported back at club, region and federation level. She remained a keen attender at divisional Union (now regional council) meetings and conferences. She also has travelled widely (as far as China) with Soroptimism and the many friends she made in the movement.

Jean died in September 2016 after several years in a Sheffield care home. She is sadly missed.

Ann Ellis SI Selby



Ann was a very good Soroptimist and an excellent friend, who upheld our values for over 25 years as a member of SI Garforth Elmet and SI Selby.

Ann went far and wide with the Sorops for International and Federation conferences both in this country and abroad.

Ann was President of SI Selby in 2009/10, and we had a hoot of a year, many wacky days, conferences we attended throughout the country. All good fun.

Ann particularly supported Peter Pan Nursery for Children with Additional Needs in Sherburn where she was a Trustee, and Guide Dogs for the Blind.

She has done an awful lot for Regional Presidents of SI Yorkshire, and our Cluster Group.

Words like admire, respect, and a genuine lady, have been

said about Ann during the last few weeks. She was an excellent Soroptimist and sister.

May she rest in peace.

Jackie Grey

Margaret Holden SI Castleford, Normanton and District



Margaret Holden of SI Castleford, Normanton and District died on the 26 April 2017.

She was an active and committed member since joining in September 1984. She was President 1987-1988 and also held the post of Secretary for a number of years.

She worked for the West Riding County Council as a Training Officer and transferred to Wakefield MDC in 1974.

Her family was very important to her and she left behind four grandchildren and two great grandchildren who she was immensely proud of. For her loyalty and determination she will be greatly missed.

Newsletter Submission Guidelines

News Reports: maximum of 400 words in a Word document or email

Obituaries: maximum 150 words

Photos: Unmanipulated original images of high resolution sent as an attachment not embedded in a text document. No collage/montages.

email: ehayes@lineone.net