



Soroptimist International Yorkshire Region Newsletter



SUMMER 2018

SI Yorkshire visits the Houses of Parliament



Tuesday 5th June saw 23 Soroptimists representing fifteen clubs from all over Yorkshire descend on London. The majority stayed at No 63.

The first night we gathered at Taormina, a lovely Italian restaurant within walking distance of 63 and settled down to eat a wonderful 3 course meal and of course our favourite drinks.

The next day was going to be a challenge. 4 taxis had been ordered to get us to Parliament for 8:30am ready for our 9:15am tour. Would they turn up? Would they get us there in time? Well they certainly did. We had an excellent tour guided by an 89 year old lady sporting pink, purple and blue hair. It took us all our time to keep up with her as she strode down the corridors and up and down stairs with ease. This remarkable lady called Milka does tours most days and has done up to 6 tours in a day - quite remarkable!

After the tour we met in the Jubilee room for coffee and an excellent and informative workshop "Suffragettes and Beyond". The group members have all the information, even the quiz sheets. So if any club would like the workshop I am sure this could be arranged.

Following the workshop we had a lovely sandwich lunch, initially limited to 3 sandwiches each to ensure all got fed. We were joined by Mary Creagh MP from Wakefield for a lively discussion on issues affecting women and children. The afternoon was free to do as we wished. Many visited the London Museum to see the Votes for Women Exhibition and of course a photo opportunity at the newly erected statue of Millicent Fawcett.

Back at 63 for a chill and then a saunter to Bel Canto another short stroll away. The evening was superb, a glass of prosecco on arrival

and then what seemed like unlimited wine and a 3



course meal. The waiters and waitresses who were opera trained, sang popular arias from famous operas and burst into song at every opportunity. Jennie Levick was even serenaded with "Some Enchanted Evening". The whole restaurant joined in and it created a memorable atmosphere, indeed an enchanting evening.

A wonderful 3 days away that achieved so much in such a short time in a most convivial atmosphere, and a marvellous opportunity to spend time with our sister Soroptimists across our Region.

Pat Shore

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

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“A Day I will never forget”

MBE Presentation

Pat Shore shares Her big day with us:

John and my daughters Jenny and Karen travelled down to London on Thursday 22nd March ready for the investiture at Buckingham Palace the following day .On the morning after a restless night ,the taxi dropped us at the front door just outside the gates when John heard his name being called. A friend of his Bill Scott was receiving the Queens Medal for North Yorkshire Police a lovely surprise although on some of the photo's I look as though I am under arrest!

John and the girls went left to the Ballroom and Bill and I went right to an ante room where we were instructed on forthcoming proceedings and were able to watch what was happening with the ceremony

Finally it was my turn and I had the pleasure and excitement of being presented with my award by HRH The Duke of Cambridge Prince William. William seemed to talk to me for quite a while covering subjects such as domestic violence, abuse of children and the problems of social media with children, an amazing and genuine caring person.

I decided not to queue for official photographs although I have been tempted by the personal DVD to relive the memories of a fantastic day.

We caught a taxi following the investiture to meet the boys Matt (Lesley Berry's son) and Ian and dined at the St James Hotel and Club Seven



Park Place. William Drabble's Michelin Stared Restaurant. The food and wine were superb.

A wonderful and very special day which will live on in the memory of all of us and without Soroptimism would never have happened.



Chain Gang Forges New Links

Chain Gang 2016-17

The 2016'17 Chain Gang met on Sunday 3rd June for their first reunion at the Bridge Hotel Walshford. They had a wonderful lunch and get together.

The reunion had to be rearranged due to the snow in March and sadly some members could not make it this time. Susie Westwood from SI Wakefield has agreed to arrange the next reunion and will send out some dates for next year.

Pictured left to right Terry King SI Leeds, Pat Shore SI Harrogate & District, Susie Westwood SI Wakefield, Pat Pleyve formerly SI Doncaster,



Catherine Allen SI Castleford Normanton & District, Hilary Putman SI Selby, Rita Leaman SI

Scarborough, Liz Lyle SI Beverley, Daphne Cawthorne SI Sheffield.

Recognising Influential Women

To celebrate International Women's Day President Jenny had asked members to think about women who had influenced them or had made a strong contribution to improving women's lives. Several members spoke about a memorable woman of the past 100 years.

PRESIDENT JENNY spoke about **ALICE BACON** the first Yorkshire Woman MP. Alice was MP for Leeds North East from 1945 -1970. She entered the House of Lords as Baroness Bacon in 1970. She was born and lived in Normanton all her life. **LIZ L** recalled **RUTH NOBLE** the Founder of SI Beverley & District, who celebrated their 50th Anniversary in 2017. She was Headmistress of Beverley Girls High School.

ANDREA told us about **DAME CECILY SAUNDERS** born in 1918. She qualified as a Nurse, a Social Worker and in 1930 as a Doctor. She founded the Hospice Movement.

SUE B had researched the life of **FREDA MAY ANDERSON**, born in 1900 in Hull and brought up during 2 World Wars.

MARGARET spoke fondly of her Grandmother **SARAH WOOD**, born in 1890 in Oldham. She instilled in Margaret the determination always to do her best and taught her about catering. **EMMA** spoke about Suffrage and Suffragettes in Hull. **MARY MURDOCK** set up the first Suffragettes movement in Hull. She was Hull's first lady Doctor! Suffragettes were the militant arm of the movement, whereas the Suffrage movement was formed in the 1800's with the objective of getting the vote for women by peaceful means.

BARBARA E told us of **WINIFRED HOLTBY**, born in Rudston in 1898, died 1935 in London of Bright's Disease. She was the author of 14 books and 6 novels, probably the most famous novel being South Riding.

CHRIS D had an illustration of a hankie signed in embroidery by Suffragettes while they were imprisoned in Holloway for refusing to keep the peace. Many were force-fed.

It was suggested that each member would embroider their name on a handkerchief which would then be buried in a time capsule beneath a Soroptimist Rose to be planted in the Memorial Garden in Beverley in recognition of the 50

years of the Club's existence and the 100 years since the first women achieved the vote. President Jenny thanked everyone for their contribution.

Spring Fashions to banish the winter blues!

On a cold and blustery evening, members of SI Beverley turned out in full strength to deliver the Spring Fashion Show. There were tasks for all in providing a welcome for our 130 guests with wine and nibbles and a chance to win the beautiful raffle prizes.

The collections on show were provided by four local fashion boutiques –Collections, Molly Brown, Beverley Dresser and Estelle. Soroptimists were among the glamorous models who presented clothes for all occasions. Behind the scenes was a model of organisation and timing.

President Jenny welcomed the brave souls who had beaten the weather to be here, and promised a show with something for everyone and for every social event. Anne introduced each model and described her outfit as she walked the length of the hall. Several items were snapped up as the evening went on!! The raffle was drawn and had provided £275 towards the evenings Charity donation.

In thanking the boutique proprietors for the wonderful show, President Jenny also thanked the helpers and especially Liz Hallett for the organisation and management of the whole affair, and the guests for their generosity in making the evening such a success. The grand total of £1,257.56 was raised for the Macmillan Nurses Charity.



President Jenny, Mandy Buchanan, Lucy Slaughter, Alison Newman and Sally Curtis.

Admiral Efforts

SI Dewsbury entered a float in the 144th Gawthorpe Maypole Parade for the third year running. They made clouds, raindrops, scarecrows, a well from plastic milk bottles, and, to finish it off, some dressed as taps and toilets, all to raise awareness of WaterAid.



The first big event in the tenure of new Presidents, Linda and Pat, was the Annual Garden Party. Blessed with beautiful weather, the guests poured in, some seventy or so, to

enjoy the lovely surroundings, the garden of hosts Roy and June.

The food was a sight to behold and everyone tucked in heartily. The bottle tombola and raffle were very popular, and kept young helper James very busy.

Over £1000.00 was raised for Admiral Nurses, the chosen charity of Presidents Pat and Linda. Thanks to everyone who came and gave so very generously.



SI Beverley & District

SI Dewsbury & District

Celebrating 90 Years of Soroptimism

SI Halifax



SI Halifax member Jennifer Pell and National President Sue Biggs

On May 13th 2018 Soroptimist International of Halifax celebrated its 90th Anniversary with a celebration lunch attended by 75 members and friends from other Yorkshire Clubs. They were pleased to welcome members from their Friendship links, two from SI Deventer, Holland and six from SI Staffordshire Moorlands. The Mayor and Mayoress of Halifax, Councillor Ferman Ali and his wife Mrs Shaheen Ali, SIGBI President Sue Biggs, Yorkshire President Chris Clark, Deputy Lieutenant of West Yorkshire, Mrs Christine Harris, and Mrs Geraldine Carter all spoke at the lunch celebrating the Club's many achievements over the years.

SI Halifax was formed on the 11th May 1928. Its first President had once been a Suffragette who had battled to get the vote for women. Mrs Laura Willson was arrested at a Suffragette Rally at Westminster in London and sentenced to 14 days in Holloway Prison. During the Great War Laura managed the

Women's section of her husband's firm and supervised the welfare conditions and organising, including crèche facilities for workers children. She was awarded the MBE for her service in the field and went on to become the first President of the Association of Women Engineers.

Under Laura Willson's leadership the club started in full swing and sent 6 unmarried mothers and their babies to the Withensea Home each year. Another interesting project was a 'Scheme set up to help the Unemployed.'

Halifax soon became involved in the wider Soroptimist network and in 1930 sent a resolution to Conference 'That a portion of the time shall be devoted to considering some service schemes of such general interest as will be helpful to all Clubs in drawing up their programmes.' The Club's influence on Soroptimist International was taking hold!

In 1933 SI Halifax saw the start of the Soroptimist Housing in

Halifax, led by the Club President Jessie Dickinson when they formed a joint Housing Association with Rotary. It became apparent that the great need which was not being met by government or the local authority was that of women living alone. A scheme was launched on Halifax to build 40 single person's flats for the occupation of single women and widows. Jessie felt that if the need was so great in Halifax it must be equally so elsewhere and so in 1937 she sent her first contribution 'Housing and the Single Woman' to the Soroptimist Magazine. She was bombarded with requests for information and to speak to other clubs. Jessie became a Housing Consultant to the Federation of Soroptimist Clubs of Great Britain and in 1960 she published a book detailing the work done either by Clubs by their own efforts or with help from other organisations. One member Mrs E. Cockroft MBE JP served as SIGBI President in 1936/37.

SI Halifax has strong links with SI Yorkshire and Miss E.M. Thompson, Club President, became SI Yorkshire's first Secretary. Two of our current club members, Mrs Irene Peaker and Mrs Rosi Gemmell have both been past Yorkshire Presidents and Irene has also been a Yorkshire Treasurer.

SI Halifax has a long and proud history and is a Club that quietly gets on with its Programme Action Work. With a current membership of 18 there is a total of 496 years of Service between them, including two active members each having an astonishing 48 years' Service. The Club looks proudly back on its history and continues to work towards the future, Empowering, Enabling and Educating Women and Girls.

President Jean Lumb

An Eventful Year continues...

SI Harrogate and District were delighted to welcome Yorkshire President Chris Clark to their AGM on the 18th April. Outgoing President Nicola Harding thanked Club members for all their support throughout the year and was pleased to announce that the Club had raised £2000 to help purchase a commercial dishwasher for the Renal Unit at Harrogate District hospital as well as raising £1250 for the Alzheimer's Society and increasing the members knowledge about dementia with some becoming Dementia Friends. The Club has also achieved its target of raising £3000 for the Meru Women's Garden Project in Kenya. Nicola then passed the President's chain of office on to Hilary Waddington and Elsie Johnston who will be sharing the role this year.

The Club was delighted to celebrate the long service awards of four of its members with a total of 150 yrs service between them. Yorkshire President Chris presented certificates to Mary Broussine (50yrs), Denyse Hyatt (40 yrs) and Rachel Richardson and Pam Johnson who both have given 30 yrs service. A fantastic achievement of women making a difference to the lives of others.



L-R: Club Joint President Hilary Waddington, Pam Johnson, Denyse Hyatt, Mary Broussine, Rachel Richardson, Yorkshire Region President Chris Clark and Club Joint President Elsie Johnston

Membership Month

SI Harrogate & District have refreshed their image following the SIGBI growth workshops and achieved their target of 3 new members last year.

The aim to try and replicate this year on year. To date the club has 35 members

To achieve this the club has a new banner, new membership information boards and new members pack, club leaflets, business cards and

promotional bookmarks.

Some of the members alongside President Hilary and President Elsie are seen holding these at the end of the last meeting.



African Evening at the Hub for Meru

Harrogate & District Soroptimists raised £421.25 at their latest Meru fundraising evening. Club Members and guests alongside Regional President Chris Clark and Regional President Elect Pat Kilbane enjoyed a wonderful summers evening at the Hub in Knaresborough.



Belebele an African Drumming and Singing group really set the mood before an excellent African supper after which Di Flemming and Jen Berry had us on our feet singing a couple of Kenyan songs ably translated by Eunice Kwallah a guest from Kenya.



SI Harrogate & District

Informative Events

SI Ilkley Tour de Yorkshire

Ilkley Soroptimists manned a Welcome to Ilkley stall at the railway station during the Tour de Yorkshire. Over nine hundred Spectator Guides were distributed to rail passengers arriving for the Ilkley finish. Town maps and Ilkley Guides provided by the Tourist Information Office were also popular but the most asked question was 'Where are the Toilets, a key facility integral to the perception of any major event.

A Visiting Speaker from a Global Partnership

SI Ilkley welcomed Kate Whittington from the charity 'Girls not Brides' to their most recent Speaker Meeting. Kate is a Programme Officer for this London based charity. President Joy also welcomed members from other local Soroptimist clubs.



L-R: Joy Lynch , President SI Ilkley and Kate Whittington



Kate gave an illustrated talk to a packed room which highlighted devastating statistics of this practice. Across the world there are 12 million girls married before the age of 18 each year. This denies a girl a right to health, education and to life choices including a life free from violence. Too often, child brides are trapped in a cycle of poverty, being forced to end their schooling, face high levels of violence whilst experiencing early and repeated pregnancies which put their own life and the lives of their children at risk.

Established in 2011, Girls not Brides is a global partnership of over one thousand civil society organisations from nearly one hundred countries around the world, committed to ending child marriage and enabling girls to fulfil their potential. Member organisations share the conviction that every girl has

the right to lead the life she chooses and that by ending child marriage, together they can achieve a safer, healthier and more prosperous future for all.

Kate explained how the organisations join forces to bring about change by working with girls, communities and governments in regions where the practice is most widespread. They work in an appropriate and sensitive way that encourages discussion and for the girls to consider making their own choices concerning their future.

A vote of thanks was given by Elizabeth Hughes who noted the clubs delight that the Soroptimists own message to women and girls, namely Educate, Enable and Empower, was wholly in line to support this distinguished and powerful Global Partnership.

Bags of help

SI Wakefield

We have just had a very busy period. We recently took a Car overflowing with items to CART (Christian Aid Relief Fund Trust) in Huddersfield who send containers to Africa to help support Development, Education and Training and to relieve Poverty. We were informed that the next Container would be leaving within days.

We also received a donation of Stationery supplies, which included 6000 pencils and other items and with Backpacks supplied by Members, this resulted in 3 large bags being sent to Mary's Meals. A busy month for our Members.



Diamond Celebrations

Jubilee Year draws to a close

As the 60th Charter Anniversary year draws to a close, we have looked back at some very happy and successful events. Highlights have been: The Jubilee Weekend, from 23 to 25 June 2017, a resounding success – starting with the Friendship evening catered by our own Club members, then a scenic drive through our beautiful dales to Hawes, a tour of Wensleydale Creamery and lunch, an evening sing-along view of “South Pacific” (a film that just happened to be released in the same year as our club was chartered – 1957), a Charter lunch at Tennants Auction Rooms in Leyburn attended by 90 guests including SIGBI Federation President, Ann Hodgson and members from all our Friendship Link Clubs in Harare, Basel, Easter Ross and Durham.

Our STEM Jobs for the Girls Conference another success and great achievement for the many club members who worked tirelessly to bring to fruition – Our aim to raise awareness of STEM opportunities for girls was realized. 203 Year 9 girls attended the Conference held at RAF Leeming with teachers. Other organisations and professionals were engaged and delivered amazing workshops Inspiring speakers addressed the girls and teachers

A stimulating ‘Market Place’ saw displays by companies and organisations, universities and colleges providing a wide variety of information and opportunities to network

We have enjoyed many other club gatherings and meetings. As an active and welcoming Club we are always looking at ways to encourage new members to join us and our banner and information are currently on show at the local library.

Busy Women: Busy Lives

After an extremely busy and successful 60th anniversary year, with an experimental 10 presidents, Richmond and Dales members are again being innovative by having 2 presidents this year, with the theme “Busy Women: Busy Lives”. Sue Eastham and Michele Herdman received the chain of office from the outgoing president Angela Edwards to whom we said a sad “au revoir” as she moves to a Soroptimists group nearer to her home in Scarborough - our loss, their gain!



Michele Herdman, Sue Eastham and Angela Edwards

Our chosen charities for this year are the Kumi Community Fund, Uganda and The Rape and Sexual Abuse Councelling Centre in Darlington. After the first meeting the group hit the ground running. First up, the Soroptimists’ Sensory Garden in Richmond needed a seasonal spruce up and some new plants.



Garden of fragrance - Sensory Garden, Richmond

We then took part in the “Wheels within Wheels” exhibition at St Mary’s Church all in time for the Tour de Yorkshire to roll into town on a glorious sunny day. Lovely blue and yellow colours everywhere!

We welcomed Elspeth Robinson to one of our club meetings to give an excellent and informative talk. She is the founder of the Kumi Community Fund, Uganda which works in Central Uganda with disabled children, young people and their families.

Elspeth and her team help sufferers with rehabilitation treatments, organise surgeries and provide mobility aids which enable these children to become active members of their communities. The fund also supports their education and provides guidance, livestock and tools to improve the incomes of poor farming families.



Elspeth Robinson and Faye Doorbar

We had some funds left over from our IWD, so decided to help out a local cause by purchasing a buggy and rain cover for a local refugee family.

Our next fund raising event will be a film night showing “Hidden Figures” at Leyburn Arts and Community Centre, The Old School House, Leyburn on Saturday 23rd June at 7pm. The £15 entry fee includes a buffet supper and a glass of Pimms. There will be a cash bar. All welcome - contact Jane Priestley via e.mail

janeandjon4@talktalk.net

SI Richmond & Dales

Soroptimist International
Yorkshire Region

A Word from the Editor

A mixture of good and bad news this issue. Congratulations again to Pat Shore MBE. News of the Houses of Parliament memorable visit followed by a round up of many club activities, sadly ending with a probable record amount of obituaries.

Liz Hayes

Diary Dates - 2018

July

Mon 2 Regional Officers' Meeting, Holiday Inn Ossett - evening

Sat 7 UKPAC Study Day Belfast

September

Sat 29 RCM Grammar School at Leeds

October

Sat 6 Regional Officers' Meeting, Holiday Inn Ossett - morning

25-27 SIGBI Conference, Liverpool

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - June 10 2018

Obituaries

Patricia Turner

SI Dewsbury & District

Trish Turner died on the 3rd June following a fall and short stay in hospital. She joined SI Dewsbury in 1985, she was Speech and Language Therapy Manager at Dewsbury & District Hospital. Although not a frequent attender at club meetings Trish was supportive of the club's work and enjoyed the recent 75th anniversary celebrations on the NYMR. She will be fondly remembered for her time keeping skills.

Patricia Baldwin

SI Hallamshire

Patricia sadly died in January 2018 at the age of 90.

Having run a successful hairdressing business with her two sisters, on retirement Pat devoted herself to caring for these sisters, both of whom had MS.

A long standing and Honorary Member of Hallamshire, Pat is sadly missed.

Margaret Dixon

SI Leeds

Died 6 February 2018. A member since 1977 she was a faithful member of the club even in the last couple of years when she was very frail – and never failed to send us a donation if she couldn't actually join in an activity, always very friendly, generous and supportive of other club members. She was club president in 1985/86. She worked as an insurance broker and her other interests included a long association with the Scout movement, recognised in 2009 by a Silver Wolf Award, the Scout Association's highest award for services of the most exceptional nature. She was given Honorary Life membership of the club in 2016.

Anne Percival

SI Scarborough

1937-2018

Anne Percival was born in the West Riding in 1937. The

family moved to Scarborough in 1946.

After school, Anne started as a secretary for Pickfords Travel Agents, moving into management and starting decades of a love of travelling all over the world. Ann also loved Music, Theatre and Dining, together with other club members. Ann joined SI Scarborough in 1982 and was a full and active member, until illness in 2007 curtailed her activities. Ann died in Scarborough in January 2018.

Janet Gordon

SI Skipton in Craven

Died on 14th January 2018 aged 82. A former headmistress, Janet (Jan) served the community she retired to in many roles, becoming a Soroptimist in November 2015 aged 80. She was a very active member for 2¼ years, demonstrating her passion for helping others in her commitment to Fairtrade and WaterAid.

Elizabeth Ewan

SI Skipton in Craven

Died on 15th February 2018 aged 84. A committed Soroptimist for 35 years, she was President in 1989-90, and served in many other roles. She was a valued volunteer at Skipton Contact Centre for 10 years. Elizabeth's lively personality and love of colourful outfits, jewellery and glasses brightened up all our meetings.

Ruth Spencer

SI Skipton in Craven

Died on 4th June 2018 aged 83, after a long illness which she faced with great courage. A committed Soroptimist for 33 years, she was President in 1997-1998 and served at different times as Minute Secretary (for a total of 10 years). A long-time member of the Upper Wharfedale Heritage Group, Ruth also greatly enjoyed reading and was a keen member of the book club set up by Past President Sam Lawson.