



# Soroptimist International Yorkshire Region Newsletter



SPRING 2020

## "An Equal World is an Enabled World"



Selby Soroptimists mark International Women's Day Sunday 8 March was International Women's Day. It was marked across the world, including in Selby, when the club posed, at the end of their meeting on Wednesday 4 March, to reflect the United Nation's theme of "an equal world is an enabled world".



This theme is aligned with UN Women's new multigenerational campaign, Generation Equality, which marks the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Despite some progress, real change has been agonizingly slow for the majority of women and girls in the world. Multiple obstacles remain unchanged in law and in culture. Women and girls continue to be undervalued; they work more, earn less and have fewer choices; and experience multiple forms of violence.

Lindsay Green, a member of SI Selby and Vice President of SIY, explains "Hence our action, reflected in the photograph to mark International Women's Day and the United Nation's theme of "an equal world is an enabled world."

SI Garforth Elmet members raised awareness of IWD at Garforth Library. On Friday 6th March



They set up a board display, and distributed leaflets about Soroptimist International. Stephanie and staff at the library were most supportive, displaying books about women, putting up purple balloons, running a coffee event and even supplying a celebration IWD cake!



SI Scarborough and Inspiring Women.

Local Scarborough business women arranged for an event celebrating women in business for IWD, called 'Inspiring Women'. SI Scarborough had a stand in the Art Gallery, which was manned by club members. Angela Edwards was on Reception greeting the over 300 attendees and handing out superb goodie bags. There was a SI Yorkshire 'Loves Me/Loves Me Not' bookmark in each bag. SI Yorkshire President, Rita Leaman, gave a presentation of the SI Scarborough

booklet 'Power of A Second Chance' and her own new book, 'Wise Words'.



SI Dewsby also struck the 'equals pose' at their events during the previous week. Marilyn's coffee morning in aid of local flood relief on Thursday, Mirfield Friendship Cafe on Friday and a Time for a Cuppa event on Saturday.



Not forgetting the regular curry club with other SIY members joining in.



Many thanks to President elect Linda Davies for rallying clubs to enable this feature to happen!

### International Women's Day

- SI Yorkshire clubs were busy celebrating the day.

### Inside this issue:

Clubs news	2-4
Diary Dates	5
Obituaries	5

## Grand Afternoon Tea

### SI Beverley & District

On Sunday 6th October President Anne Lane and members of SI Beverley and District joined forces with the Tickton Village Hall Committee to hold a fundraising Grand Afternoon Tea in aid of Dementia Support East Riding. Soroptimist Liz Hallett worked hard to source lots of donated food items and fabulous raffle prizes. One hundred and ten tickets were sold, almost immediately, which had members busy producing 440 identically sized finger sandwiches on the morning of the event. Sadly the day before our scone donor, the chef at a local hotel, was taken seriously ill, but Liz Hallett powered up her kitchen and seamlessly took over scone production.



Top table guests were the Mayor and Mayoress of Beverley, the Mayor of East Yorkshire and her Consort and the Vicar of Tickton. Liz Hallett gave a humorous talk about some of her experiences as the

former local District Nurse, raising many smiles and memories of long departed local characters. A total of £1,934 was raised and a good time enjoyed by all, even the ladies washing up!

## Treemendous Times

### SI Dewsbury & District



In November SI Dewsbury were joined by SI Wakefield, Ansaar Beaver Scouts, Ravensthorpe Residents Action Group and friends and family, to plant nearly 800 trees at Dewsbury Country Park. Pete Banks, Dewsbury Country Park Ranger, patiently instructed everyone on the art of tree planting, and gave the history of the park and explained the importance of planting trees for future generations. Thank you to everyone who came along to make it a special community event.

SI Dewsbury & District, together working in partnership with Trinity Church, Ossett and ASDA Wakefield, packed 8 shoe boxes with gifts to bring joy,

love and hope to children in need around the world. The boxes were taken to a central point and then collected and shipped by Operation Christmas Child through the Charity Samaritans Purse. The club members were divided into groups by the areas where they lived. They decided which age group for their boxes, met and had fun and friendship packing with love and care their shoeboxes.



Who could forget the afternoon tea in celebration of Audrey's big birthday in February, and the look of enjoyment at the cream buns!

**STOP PRESS**

Second batch of trees arrived to do it all over again!



## Festivities and Presentations

Harrogate and District Soroptimists had a very busy run up to Christmas including the judging of our own Charity Shop Christmas Shop Window Competition in Harrogate Borough and Wetherby as well as supporting Harrogate Rotary Club judge the Commercial Shops in Harrogate Town Centre.

We supported the Wetherby Lions Christmas Market and raised over £200 for our Charities and had fun and laughter at our Christmas Party held at Ascot House Hotel in Harrogate. Some of us were also able to squeeze in a lovely Mulled Wine and Mince pie morning at member Christabel England's home to raise funds for our joint project to help build a school library with SI Blantyre in Malawi. And not forgetting our Christmas party for our Contact the Elderly Group (now known as Re-Engage).

The Mayor of Harrogate Borough Cllr. Stuart Martin MBE and Club President Mrs Sylvia Purser presented the Cup and the winners of the Gold Awards. The Winner of the Soroptimist Cup in Harrogate Borough was Saint Michael's Shop in Ripon for their fantastic window full of items

knitted by volunteers including a Christmas Tree.



The Mayor of Wetherby Cllr. Galan Moss and Immediate Past Presidents Hilary Waddington and Elsie Johnston awarded the Gill Smith Cup to



Cancer Research in Wetherby whose glittering Christmas Angel really caught the eye of any passers-by. Highly Commended charity shops – Saint Gemma's Hospice, OXFAM and Mind.

## SI Harrogate & District

## SI Leeds Literary Prize Readers' Choice

**We are looking for readers!**

Join us in judging the 2020 Prize

### What is the SI Leeds Literary Prize?

We have been running our national biennial Literary Prize for unpublished fiction written by UK-based Black and Asian women since 2012. Now in its fifth edition, we will be awarding the 2020 prize in October. Many previous winners have gone on to publishing success (see our website [www.sileedsliteraryprize.com](http://www.sileedsliteraryprize.com)).

The closing date for entries this year is 30 April. These (expected to be 40+) will be whittled down to a shortlist of six by our professional judging panel in August. The final result will be announced at our award event on 16 October, at the Ilkley Literature Festival.

### Why do we need readers?

1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> prizes are awarded by the judges. But we also award the SI Readers' Choice to the favourite entry as judged by participating readers. This may or may not be one of the three winners. We are looking for additional readers for the 2020 prize. SI members who have done it before have found it an enjoyable experience. This additional award is seen by the industry as a valuable indication of the views of readers, rather than professional judges, and feedback by readers is extremely valuable to the shortlisted writers, whose unpublished manuscripts may not have been read by many.

### What is involved?

SI members who wish to participate will be emailed the six shortlisted manuscripts by Monday 24 August and will be asked to vote for their preferred

choice by Monday 5 October, giving a six-week window to review them. As manuscripts are unpublished, all reading happens electronically, either via a Kindle, tablet or computer. This means a lot of reading but you don't need to read each manuscript from start to finish. The first 50+ pages should give you a feel of whether the author has engaged your interest, so an entry that leaves you cold can be abandoned without guilt. The SI Readers' Choice is there to reward the book which most engaged you.

### How to sign up

If you would like to join us, please email us at: [literaryprizereaderschoice@gmail.com](mailto:literaryprizereaderschoice@gmail.com) and we will be in touch. All readers will be invited to join us as our guests at the Ilkley award ceremony in October.

Happy reading!

Val Saunders

Chair, SI Leeds Literary Prize Advisory Panel

2018 award event, Ilkley Festival. Photo: Max Farrar

L-R: Kavita Bhanot, Yvonne Singh, Yoanna Pak, Mona Dash, Omega Douglas, Shereen Tadros (winner).



## SI Leeds

## Soroptimists & Students Sharing Skills

### SI Richmond & Dales

Students, Period Poverty and Toilet Twinning

The latest cohort of students from Richmond School joined SI Richmond and Dales as part of their ongoing Sharing our Skills project. The seven girls, five of whom are pictured, were impressed with the club's aim to make Richmond a toilet twinned town and concerned to learn a number of their contemporaries could miss out on school due to period poverty. The girls held a dress down day at the school, raising a splendid £1000.64. After consulting each other, the girls decided to purchase 6 twinned toilets, splitting the remaining funds equally between period poverty and club projects. In the photo are the 6 toilets twinned with the toilets in the girls' block at their school and a small part of the sanitary



products to be donated to the local foodbank. Richmond and Dales will be sending their share of the girls' donation to their Friendship Link in Harare.

Colleagues will recall the photo of Wendy Arrowsmith in a local costume made during her trip to the Gambia in a recent newsletter. Wendy's report to the club inspired the girls to donate £100 of their funds to purchase a sewing machine and material for local women and girls to make sani pads. The

photo shows sewing in progress. Richmond and Dales



presented each girl with a Certificate of Appreciation and are very proud of these young women and their commitment to improving the lives of women and girls at home and abroad.

## Foodbank Awareness & Grand Quiz

### SI Selby

Nigel Currey came to a meeting of Selby Soroptimists on Wednesday 20 November and spoke about the work of the Foodbank in Selby & District. Nigel outlined the history of the Trussell Trust and the setting up of the Foodbank in Selby. He said that sadly the number of food vouchers given to families had increased significantly. Often something happened beyond the person's control and they had no money to fall back on, so needed immediate assistance from the Foodbank. Nigel expressed appreciation for the volunteers, who helped at the Foodbank, and thanked the many individuals and organisations who donated food.

Soroptimist members had brought food and other items to the meeting and gave them to Nigel for the Foodbank.

Some of the Soroptimists already supported the Foodbank, as a volunteer, by making regular donations of food or giving occasionally in

the supermarket. But with Nigel's talk, everyone increased their knowledge and gained an insight into the valuable work of the Foodbank in Selby & District.



SI Selby held its Annual Quiz on Friday 21 February, in Eggborough Village Hall. Some eighty people took part in the Quiz, mostly in teams of six. Bob Hutchinson was the Quiz Master. There were three rounds on paper - identifying current politicians from their picture, deciphering sweets from cryptic clues and finding the two same words appropriate to the clue - and two rounds of general knowledge questions, on a wide range of topics, with Bob posing the questions. Supper, provided by members was

served during the interval. There was a raffle, with lots of quality prizes, and a bar offering alcohol and soft drinks. The winning team was the Brayton St Wilfrid's Six. They won a bottle of wine each.



Judith Cooke, Honorary Member of SI Selby said "everyone enjoyed the evening. It was a really good quiz and there was a great atmosphere in the Hall. My congratulations to the winning team and thanks to the Quiz Master. We raised over one thousand pounds. Our main charity this year is Selby Sleepsafe but we also support Soroptimist and other charities. Thank you to everyone who came to the Quiz and to the members for all that they did in advance of the event and on the evening. It was most successful."

**Soroptimist International  
Yorkshire Region**

**A Word from the Editor**

A belated Happy New Year to all, a catch up on winter news from many clubs with a special focus on International Women's Day in this issue.

Please send in news of your spring events for next time

Liz Hayes

**Please note new email address  
for future use below right.**

**Diary Dates - 2020**

**April**

Monday 27th Evening Officers Meeting

**May**

Friday 15th Yorkshire Women Volunteer Awards - Leeds

**June**

Saturday 20th RCM Askham Grange Prison

**July**

Monday 6th Evening Officers Meeting

Wed 15th 'A Grand Afternoon Out' - Newby Hall

**September**

TBC RCM

**October**

Saturday 3rd Officers Meeting - am

Thurs 29th -31st 86th SIGBI Conference at the ICC Belfast

**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - June 7th 2020**

## Bags of Festive Cheer

At their December meeting SI Sheffield members donated an amazing number of toys, clothes and confectionery as Christmas gifts. These will be given to local women's refuges. In addition we collected toiletries for the Snowdrop Project which is a Sheffield based charity providing long-term support to empower survivors of human trafficking to move on from their past.



## SI Sheffield

## Obituaries

**Ann Hawkes**

**SI Sheffield**



Ann Hawkes died on 10th February aged 70, after a 3 year terminal illness, only known to a few people as she bravely did not want her cancer to define her.

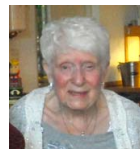
She was a Chartered Accountant in practice in Sheffield for over 40 years and

was an active, hard working and committed member of SI Sheffield for over 30 years, serving as President in 2011/12 together with a wide variety of other posts. She also served as Yorkshire Region Treasurer until Autumn 2019 when she became too ill.

She was much loved, valued and respected by the Club and Region alike - no one will forget her signature red flash of hair and her love of statement costume jewellery - but also her optimism and sense of humour and her sound and reliable financial advice .

**(Eleanor) Jean Southam**

**SI Keighley**



Jean Southam died on the 4th March 2020 at the residential home where she was living in Silsden. She was born in 1932 and worked in Keighley as a Social Worker, joining our Branch in 1967. Her activities in the club included two episodes as our president 1974-75 and 1982.

**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.

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