



Soroptimist International Yorkshire Region Newsletter



AUTUMN 2022

Yorkshire Region Programme Action Awards

The decision was made that this year the programme awards would be entitled simply "Yorkshire Region Programme Action Awards"

This year clubs have submitted 104 reports, down slightly from last year. Using the set format of the last 5 years, 3 clubs were shortlisted for the award and asked to present at the RCM.

SI Bradford have been working with Shine helping the local community in West Bowling a particularly deprived area of Bradford. The project provides a few different services to families, helping over 200 men women and children in the local area. The Club started by donating clothing and other items but have now taken over the day to day running of the clothing bank and have set up a uniform bank for the area's children, helped in the café, and supported the pop-up pantry run the Shine to provide food/meals for those in need. Given gifts and helped to raise funds.

SI Dewsbury and District-Project Mirfield Friendship Café held in Mirfield Library. Dewsbury chose this project because unfortunately there are lonely and depressed people out in their community. They wanted to tackle these problems and empower people to get together where they can be free to chat and form friendships. During lockdown the café could not be run but it has recommenced every first Friday of the month, offering a very valuable resource and place to meet. They have rotas for serving refreshments, baking, listening, chatting and of course washing up. This free café is valued by the community. President Lindsay highlighted that Dewsbury have again had a very busy and productive year evidenced by their submission of 27 programme focus reports.



SI Leeds STEM Immersion 2022. The project was run in April and is planned to be repeated yearly. Aimed at enthusing girls and young women to be interested in and to sustain their interest in STEM subjects. This was done through delivering a day where girls from years 5 and 6 work together with young women from years 10 and 11 to learn about and experience STEM. There will be opportunities for them to hear from women working in a variety of STEM fields, attend workshops, watch a jewellery making presentation and enter a competition.

Some *quotes* from the primary school girls made on the day: *"The day gave me an opportunity to explore the wonders of STEM together I enjoyed everything I was excited about making slime and parachutes I loved the jewellery making and everything."* The older girls were assessed and had planned, written and led the younger pupils in fun workshops.

All those shortlisted were deserving, the decision of the judging panel was unanimous that the Yorkshire Region Programme Action Award 2022 should go to SI Leeds (pictured above). Jennie and Linda both opted out when their club projects were discussed.

President Lindsay, Jennie and IPP Linda also discussed the excellent work undertaken by Clubs during the year and a

President Lindsay, SI Leeds President Terry King, Annie McMasters, Jennie Gillam & Margaret Middlemass

further 2 awards were made. President Lindsay acknowledged that SI Sheffield had inspired clubs to pick up the gauntlet after the project of toilet twinning in the city of Sheffield last year, with other clubs also doing toilet twinning projects. However, the efforts of SI Harrogate have been commended for an award as they set out to Toilet Twin Harrogate District, their plan was to carry this out over 2 years with the project launched on March 8th, 2022, but they have already achieved their aim and have twinned more than 30 toilets (see p4).

Working in Partnership with other agencies and clubs is also valuable and President Lindsay wanted to acknowledge the work done within the Cluster groups using a partnership approach.



A special Presidents Award has been awarded to the work done by the west cluster for their working with "Together Women". This is Bingley, Bradford, Keighley, Ilkley and Skipton in Craven. Together they are making a big difference to the women and girls in that area of Yorkshire.

Jennie Gillam

Regional Council

- Hot off the Press, the Programme Action awards presented at the Regional Council meeting.

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Silver Celebrations

Chain Gang 1997-98

The 1997-1998 Chain Gang met recently at The Bridge Inn at Walshford!

A good time was had as we hadn't met since 2019!

Can you spot who was present?! We had apologies from 3 other members of the gang'

L-R: Margaret Cook, Jennie Levick, Liz Lyle, Marilyn Haythornthwaite, Geraldine Tolan, Kate Carnegie-Smith, Lesley Berry, Jane Macaulay



Jonas Centre Weekend

SI Yorkshire

It was billed as a SI Yorkshire Residential Weekend with crafts, other activities and a Soroptimist twist. The twist was the fun, positive action and FRIENDSHIP – cementing previous ones and creating new ones. With 32 members choosing the whole weekend staying in the comfortable log cabins and 9 members joining as a day guests.

Olwen and I attended from SI Selby, along with Regional President Lindsay, of course. Olwen and I shared a lodge with Susan Mendoza and Sam Lawson. We knew who they were but got to know them over the weekend, with long late night chats, sharing food, drink and the household tasks. Well, Susan and Sam did most of the tidying up and any cleaning that was needed on the Sunday morning, whilst Olwen and I were counting badges! Our thanks to Susan and Sam – they are great Soroptimists, especially to share accommodation with. On Friday evening, we enjoyed an informal reception and dinner. We were encouraged to talk to and sit with members from Clubs other than our own. Judging by the level of conversation and who sat with whom, this worked very well. You see members from other Clubs at Regional meetings and events, but do not really get

the chance to catch up with them or get to know different and new– to-you members. We also had a quiz and a nick it back raffle to add to the fun Saturday was workshop day! I opted for social media. As the external speaker was unable to join us, this gave all members of the group the chance to talk to each other about IT and for some the opportunity to work together on social media and improve the offering of their Club. Perhaps the Regional Comms team could tap into those who benefited from this session! My second workshop involved making sustainable coverings for food items. This was great fun but I did not do very well, although others did! Olwen went to the jewellery making workshop, led by Lindsay's sister in law. This was very popular and ran through into the afternoon, with some people joining the group after lunch. Some lovely items were made. Lindsay's sister in law was present for the whole weekend. She made new friends and was so encouraged by the friendship and activities that she is hopefully joining SI Hallamshire. We also had a choice of mindful colouring, felt making or just to sit, chill and read a book.

A number of us went on a walk late afternoon. Actually, I think there were various walks.

Everyone enjoyed the exercise, the lovely scenery and the chance for yet more conversation with different people. We arrived back at the Centre in time for a few drinks outside. The weather was also glorious.

We had a lovely meal on Saturday evening. Indeed, the food for the whole weekend was excellent. The evening also included another nick it back raffle with a twist, who knew that a tiara and a toilet brush would be the most sought after prizes. Uproar and lots of laughter was heard across the valley.

Sunday morning saw us enjoying a substantial breakfast with different activities before and after. These were unplanned, such as, a yoga session, a non denominational church service and counting out the Soroptimists say NO to Violence Against Women badges for the Regions of the UK & RoI and the clubs in Yorkshire.

So it was a great weekend - lots of talk, action and friendship. Olwen and I certainly enjoyed it, as did every one who was there.

Thank you, Regional President Lindsay and your team, for SI YORKSHIRE'S SOROPTIMIST FRIENDSHIP WEEKEND

Hilary Putman



All things IT



Making wax melts

**Jonas
Weekend
July 1-3**



Nick it back raffle



80th Anniversary Weekend Events

SI Dewsbury & District

The weekend began with on Friday July 22nd with a Dinner at Dewsbury & District Golf Club, there was a 1940s theme with music, a quiz and the ever popular Nick it back raffle.



The following day members enjoyed a coach trip to Kirkby Lonsdale, despite intermittent light showers a good time was had by all. Two groups explored the area with a guided walk while the rest browsed the many shops, tea rooms/cafés and very popular ice cream seller.



The highlight of the weekend on Sunday was the Charter Lunch at Heald's Hall, guests

included SIGBI President Elect Ruth Healey and SIY President Lindsay Green.

An excellent lunch was enjoyed, long service awards presented to Eileen Hartley and Sue Glover then Ruth Healey spoke about SIGBI and her personal involvement in soroptimism.



Eventful Summer

SI Harrogate & District

Concert in aid of Dementia forward
SI Harrogate and District organised a concert at the Wesley Centre in aid of Dementia Forward. In attendance were the Mayor of Harrogate, Cllr. Victoria Oldham, and the Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Robert Windass.



Music was provided by staff and students from Queen Mary's School near Topcliffe. A fantastic programme included music by Mozart, Bach, Beethoven, Kreisler, Bridge, Taffanel, Widor and Damase.

The grand sum of £740 was raised from the concert.

Long Service award presented by Grandma Pat to Grandma Lesley



Lesley Berry was presented with her 30 year certificate by President Elect, Pat Shore, with whom Lesley shares two grandchildren, Jake and Jaime. Both ladies are former Yorkshire Presidents, Federation Councillors and Presidents of their respective Clubs.

Strawberries And Cream

Game, set and match in Wetherby as Club members enjoyed watching the Ladies Wimbledon Final at the home of Hilary Waddington with an afternoon tea. £220 was raised to be shared between Dementia Forward and Toilet Twinning.

5 Ladies And A Bus Called Bertha

Harrogate Soroptimist, Sue Williams, has just published her first novel – 'Five Ladies and a Bus Called Bertha'. Sue has always written for pleasure but since retiring from her day job, has been able to concentrate on her writing.

Sue has had great fun writing the book and has spent many happy hours with friends who have shared comic and occasionally scandalous tales about themselves, their colleagues and families for the book. As a thank you, Sue has decided to share the profits from the book, between four very worthwhile charities supported by SI Harrogate and District – Dementia Forward, Toilet Twinning, The Trussell Trust and Soroptimist SIGBI

Cash Boost From Soroptimists To Dementia Forward

President Val Hills, accompanied by member Sandra Jowett, presented a cheque for £1400 to Jill Quinn, CEO of Dementia Forward at their headquarters, The Hub, Burton Leonard. This was in addition to the £160 already raised from online sales of concert tickets.

The total of £1560 means that the

Soroptimists are now well on their way to their target of £2000 to help fund an additional Dementia Forward helpline needed during lockdown.



Summer Outing To The Valley Gardens

A stroll in the evening sunshine around the Valley Gardens hosted by President Val and a meal at a nearby Italian restaurant proved a popular way to start the summer recess.

Coffee Morning In The Garden

A Coffee Morning in Sue Slocombe's magical garden raised £290 for Dementia Forward and Toilet Twinning.

Wetherby Achieves Toilet Twinned Status

Wetherby recently became a Toilet Twinned Town thanks to the work of Harrogate Soroptimists who live there. The Mayor of Wetherby, Cllr Neil O'Byrne, accepted the certificate at the Council offices.



Richmond is now a 'Toilet Twinned Town'

SI Richmond and Dales is please to report that they have completed their Toilet Twinning campaign. They have now organised 20 toilet twins across all the categories of organisations required by the Toilet Twinning charity. They have duly confirmed that Richmond is now a 'Toilet Twinned Town'. [Catterick, Richmond and Colburn Community Library Trust](#) (CRACCL) has agreed to display the official certificate in Richmond Library on behalf of the club.



Jenny Cathcart, who led the project presented the certificate to CRACCL Trustee Judith Clark and Chair Sue Young.

This has been a long campaign which had to be put on hold during the pandemic. SI R&DD are very pleased with this achievement, which has enabled twenty communities in Asia, Africa and Latin America to receive their first proper toilet facilities. This is a

significant contribution to health and safety in these communities.

Money raised in March when Baroness Tanni Grey Thompson spoke to the club has been distributed as follows:

- given the Riding for the Disabled club at Catterick Garrison £100. They intend to take the children to Masham for a day pony trekking during the holidays.
- bought Marrick Priory (an outdoor centre for children, often from disadvantaged and urban backgrounds) an outdoor bench and 6 helmets to be used for watersports.
- given £300 to a newly established charity, Colburn Community Support, which is helping local residents to access help. They principally help residents complete forms to access services, for example, they recently achieved a four figure tax rebate for a resident.
- Bought a bistro set for Garget Walker House a day centre for people with dementia.

Pictured Jan Breton & Sue Young on left with the Friends group assembled the table set.



SI Richmond & Dales

Teddies Taken into Custody

Soroptimists & Guests Question North Yorkshire Police Superintendent

Superintendent Emma Aldred, Head of Specialist Operations, North Yorkshire Police, was the Speaker at the SI Selby Meeting on Thursday 23 June. The Soroptimists had also invited members of other women's groups, parish councillors, friends and spouses to this Meeting. Some 40 people were present.

The meeting was chaired by member Lindsay Green, President SI Yorkshire.

Emma outlined her career with the police and her current role with North Yorkshire. Although she is based in Tadcaster, her role and the teams working for her are force-wide, covering the whole of North Yorkshire. Emma was the runner up for the British Association of Women in Policing Award for Inspirational Woman of the Year and Leadership.

A question and answer session followed. Emma was asked about fly tipping and compensation for farmers, speed cameras and cars racing through rural communities and along our roads, cross border crimes, burglary rates in North Yorkshire and tips to avoid being burgled, how voluntary service organisations could work with the police and their partners. Conversations about these issues and others continued with Emma after the formal meeting was closed.

Pam Middlebrook, another Selby Soroptimist member, thanked Emma on behalf of everyone at the meeting for her time, her talk about her career and job, and for responding to the questions fully and so positively. Pam also congratulated Emma on her Award, and wished her and her teams well.

Lindsay then presented Emma with some trauma teddies. These were knitted by members of Brayton WI, Marion Borthwick in particular. These teddies will be given by Police Officers to children in the Selby district, who have suffered some trauma. The teddies will hopefully help these children and reduce the trauma for them. Lindsay thanked Marion and all the members of Brayton WI who had knitted the teddies. She then thanked Emma again and closed the Meeting.



L-R: Lindsay, Emma and Marion

SI Selby

Soroptimist International Yorkshire Region

A Word from the Editor

Congratulations to the winners of the SIY Programme Awards. If you would like your club featured please send your news for the next issue.

Liz Hayes

Diary Dates - 2022

October

Saturday 15th Officers meeting, Ricall Regen Centre

27th - 29th SIGBI Conference, Belfast

November

Saturday 26th RCM & President's Lunch, Rogerthorpe Manor

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - November 13th 2022

Enjoyable Outings

Arboretum Visit

Soroptimist International Wakefield's Summer outing this year was on the 28th July to the Arboretum. Husbands, family and friends and members of S.I. Wakefield's daughter club S. I. Garforth Elmet, enjoyed a most interesting day. The weather was fine and sunny and the journey, by coach, very pleasant. The coach arrived in time for coffee and cake before everyone joined the road train for a tour of the grounds, where we saw some wonderful and emotionally powerful sculptures to various organisations.

After the train tour members had time to either visit other monuments or have lunch. Unfortunately, on this day the SIGBI Sculpture was damaged. This was because the glue had failed and the sculpture had broken. It was a design fault and was away being repaired.



The coach then proceeded to take members to Lichfield, where many enjoyed time spent in the



Cathedral, followed by tea and cakes before the return journey. A very enjoyable and interesting day.

Westgate Walk

On a warm sunny evening members of S. I. Wakefield and husbands joined Kevin Trickett MBE, for a history walk down Westgate in Wakefield. This walk took members around the Upper Westgate Conservation Area which has been designated as a 'High Street Heritage Action Zone'. Kevin's talk explained about the many old buildings, which are being returned to their original state, and all about the yards and how the medieval town developed through the centuries.



After this most enlightening evening some members then went for an Italian meal and a glass of red wine at Felice's Bella Roma. A perfect ending to the evening.

Judith Alce

SI Wakefield

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: ehayes1@sky.com

Obituary

Diana Chambers SI Skipton in Craven

Diana died on September 3rd, She had been a member of SI Skipton in Craven for 33 years.