



# Soroptimist International Yorkshire Region Newsletter



SPRING 2022

## IWD ZOOM WITH FRIENDSHIP LINK

SI Selby has two Club Friendship links with SI clubs in Europe : SI Frankenthal, Germany and SI Dnipro, Ukraine. During the pandemic, the three Clubs met regularly on zoom. Everyone enjoyed these meetings : catching up on each others' news, talking about Soroptimist activities, making and maintaining friendships.

A zoom meeting was arranged with the three Clubs for Tuesday 8 March. This was before the Russian invasion into Ukraine. Previously, there would be a number of members from SI Dnipro. Sadly, none of them were able to join us on International Women's Day.

SI Selby has been in email contact with our friends in Dnipro, offering our love, prayers and support. This contact ceased on Wednesday 8 March. We hope it will be restored.

In the meantime, we know that one member is in Poland with her granddaughter, another has moved out of Dnipro into the country to be with her old and ailing Mother, and a third is trying to leave Dnipro. In her last e mail, she wrote " maybe I'll try to leave: ( Dnipro ) has been attacked at night for the third day in a row. .... I take my iPad with me. So far, I don't know what type of transport I will have to go on, on what day (the queues for leaving the Dnipro are unprecedented) and to which country I'll be able to get".

The IWD zoom meeting went ahead with SI Frankenthal and SI Selby. The members of SI Dnipro, their families and Ukraine were very much in our thoughts. We sent them every good wish on a day, which is usually celebrated as a holiday in Ukraine.

Members lit a peace candle at the meeting on the 2nd March.



The picture shows a collection of items from a visit in 2018. The beads represent (Love and life). The board came from a UNESCO heritage site, it is painted using a specific style using your finger. The sunflower is their national flower and it represented the sunflowers on the tables at the RCM and the seeds given out to members to grow.

*Hilary Putman & Lindsay Green*

### IWD

- SIY clubs held various events with #BreakTheBias and Ukraine support to the front

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Members of SI Beverley & District marked International Women's Day by wearing blue and yellow to show support for the women of Ukraine. They also donated to the EVA appeal and the Jacob's Well special Ukraine appeal.





# IT COULD BE YOU!

## Domestic Abuse Conference

**Soroptimist International of Yorkshire**

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2022**

**9.30am-4.00pm**

**Regen Centre, Landing Lane, Riccall, YO19 6PW.**

Soroptimist International of Yorkshire would like to welcome you to their Conference which will explore the varying facets pertaining to Domestic Abuse.

What is Domestic Abuse? Help and Support, Specialist Services, Women's Justice and Prevention

The day will consist of; presentations; chances to network; opportunity to ask questions of Yorkshire and National based charities and services.

During the afternoon attendees will have options to attend two speaker sessions of their choice,

The day will finish with a Question-and-Answer session with a panel of speakers from the day.

Tea/coffee available on arrival from 9.30am

**Cost £39.00 including lunch and refreshments**

**Closing date 16th April 2022**

**Contact: [programmeactionsiyorks@hotmail.com](mailto:programmeactionsiyorks@hotmail.com)**

Various Local Accommodation can be booked separately, List Available

### **Speakers include:**

**IDAS** is the largest specialist charity in Yorkshire supporting anyone experiencing or affected by domestic abuse or sexual violence. Services include refuge accommodation, community based support, peer mentoring, group work and run a free, confidential out of hours' helpline.

**Rebecca Beattie** Young Ambassador of the Prince's Trust and survivor of domestic abuse, runs an ethical clothing brand dedicated to raising awareness of domestic violence. She won The Prince's Trust Young Achiever Award at the 2020 Daily Mirror Pride of Britain Awards, in partnership with TSB.

**Justice for Women.** Justice for Women was established in 1990 as a feminist campaigning organisation that supports, and advocates on behalf of women who have fought back against or killed violent men. They strive to eradicate the discrimination in the legal system against women who have suffered male violence.

**Staying Put** Staying Put is a domestic abuse and sexual violence charity which provides support services to victims and survivors across Bradford.

**EVA Women'sAid** is a woman-only organisation, independent of the criminal justice system, statutory agencies and other private companies, working with women and children who have been affected by domestic abuse and sexual violence at any time in their lives.

**White Ribbon** White Ribbon UK is the leading charity engaging with men and boys to end violence against women.

For further information and a booking form please contact Susie Westwood

To: Susie Westwood, Thompson's Farm, 176 Leeds Road, Lofthouse, Wakefield, WF3 3LR

Email [susiewestwood@outlook.com](mailto:susiewestwood@outlook.com)

## IWD 2022 campaign theme:

# #BreakTheBias

Imagine a gender equal world

A world free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination

A world that is diverse, equitable, and inclusive

A world where difference is valued and celebrated

Collectively we can all #BreakTheBias

Be part of a movement



Members of SI Dewsbury & SI Wakefield supported the IWD 2022 campaign theme #BreakTheBias at their curry club at Amaia in Wakefield.



### SI Harrogate and District launch Toilet Twinning

Members celebrated International Women's Day by launching their Toilet Twinning Project - aiming to become the first District in the country to become twinned. President Val Hills welcomed the Chairman of North Yorkshire County Council and the Mayors of Harrogate and Pateley Bridge together with representatives from local schools, community groups and businesses. Yorkshire President Lindsay Green was also a guest.

The event was held at Saint Paul's Church Hall in Harrogate. Michele Carlisle and Eva Lamb from were the speakers. Club member, Heather Shipman, shared her experience of using the loo whilst in a remote area of Nepal.



## Appeal to SI clubs

### No:63 Hotel

*Past SIY President Rita Leaman appeals to members:*

On Saturday, January 22nd 2022, The (Soroptimist) No:63 Hotel in London, held their AGM on Zoom. Shareholders have been asked to make an appeal to clubs.

(For those who don't know about the No:63 Hotel, here is the link to the hotel. <https://number63.co.uk>) There is a short film on SI Yorkshire Facebook page.

As many of you know, the hotel was severely hit by the pandemic. In the end of year accounts, in 52 trading weeks, No:63 was only open for six weeks out of fiftytwo weeks. Opening was further disrupted by the severely damaging flash floods in the area in July 2021. The repair to the damaged fabric of this listed building, has been estimated as between £150,000 -200,00 There was also a bill of £65,000 in compensation to residents and staff for losses accrued due to the flood damage. The battle with the insurance companies continues.

The No:63 Board has confirmed that they will definitely be keeping the hotel open and there is a new management team, headed by Victoria. To this end the Board of No:63 need any assistance to publicise the hotel, that can be made by No:63 shareholders and Soroptimist club members.

There are four ways that members can help.

1. Stay at the hotel.
2. Become a shareholder.
3. Purchase more shares if you are already a shareholder.
4. Buy a number for the 500 draw (much like the SI Yorkshire 250 club) or buy two or more numbers. Clubs can buy numbers too. They are £12 per number annually.

Some clubs put a £1 of each member's subscription towards a number. Perhaps your club already does this?

If you are interested the 500 club, this is the link for further details: <https://number63.co.uk/500-club/>

Here are over 40 reasons to stay at at No:63, perhaps you can think of more?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Welcoming.   | 25. Across the park from The Albert Hall              |
| 2. Cosy   | 26. The best museums and art galleries in Kensington. |
| 3. Central London                                     | 27. A bus ride to Hyde Park concerts                  |
| 4. Next to Central Line tube station                  | 28. 500 club with prizes                              |
| 5. Opposite one of London's finest parks - Hyde Park  | 29. Meet other Soroptimists                           |
| 6. 15 minute walk from Paddington Station             | 30. Discounted prices - AT THE MOMENT                 |
| 7. On many bus routes                                 | 31. Bar and meals loyalty card - NOT AT THE MOMENT    |
| 8. Safe   | 32. Meeting place                                     |
| 9. Value for money                                    | 33. Taxis passing.                                    |
| 10. Meeting rooms                                     | 34. Local walks                                       |
| 11. Refreshments                                      | 35. Key card entry for security                       |
| 12. No:63 gin   | 36. Peaceful  |
| 13. Clean   | 37. Helpful staff                                     |
| 14. Wifi connection                                   | 38. Competitive room hire rates                       |
| 15. Social events                                     | 39. Central for sightseeing                           |
| 16. Catering available                                | 40. Oxford Street shopping                            |
| 17. Friendly  | 41. West End Theatres                                 |
| 18. Comfortable                                       | 42. Attractive Victorian building - Listed.           |
| 19. Snacks available                                  | 43. Late availability for Soroptimist members         |
| 20. Themed weekends                                   | 44. Calm environment                                  |
| 21. Great for theatre visits                          | 45. Feel secure                                       |
| 22. Families welcome                                  | 46. Meeting other Soroptimists                        |
| 23. Group visits                                      | 47. Meeting interesting residents                     |
| 24. Easy bus or tube ride to Westfield Shopping Mall. |   |



## Friendship, Fundraising & Forging Links

The second Mirfield Friendship café of the year took place on February 4th, well attended by many of the regulars and a number of new faces.



To celebrate International Women's Day this year, the Kirklees College Creative Industries department hosted an art exhibition in collaboration with SI Dewsbury. The level 3/4 Art, Design and Media Practice students were tasked with responding to a live brief set by SI based around the 16 Days of Activism and International Women's Day to incite meaningful conversations about gender equality.

The exhibition took place in the atrium at the Huddersfield Centre where 58 pieces of work were on display and was attended by staff and students with their family and friends.

Over 40 students completed the live brief as part of their work placement on their study programmes. The judging panel selected two winners with nine runners up who they felt best responded to the brief with new and original ideas. All students who completed the brief were presented with a certificate by Steve Plumstead, Curriculum Area Manager for Creative Industries and guests from Soroptimist International at the awards ceremony.

Linda Davis and Pat Thornes from SI Dewsbury commented: "When we contacted Kirklees College we were delighted that Steve, Emma and Grace agreed to run both 16 days of activism and International Women's Day as briefs. We were so impressed with the work the students have done that we really struggled to pick winners.

The work the students have done is thought provoking, making even us as soroptimists think about the research behind the art work. The work is just such high quality, a lot more advanced than what we initially expected and we did many years ago. We are so happy to be here tonight to see all the work and we hope to work with Kirklees College again next year."



The two prize winners pictured with five SI Dewsbury members (front) and college staff

A No frills coffee morning on March 10th raised £115.00 for Mary's Meals.

A U3A Concert by the 'Singing for pleasure' choir raised 270.00 for the Forget Me Not children's Hospice.

A Silent Auction was also held on March 18th.

## SI Dewsbury & District

## Starters For Four

### Ilkley Soroptimists handover four Home Starter Packs to Keighley Refuge

Ilkley Soroptimists heard an overview of life during COVID at The Keighley Refuges, where there are 5 to 10 referrals for every place, with an age range from 17 to 78. Ilkley members agreed to put together packs of essentials for those leaving the refuge with no belongings and having left their family and friends. When moving into social housing they are given a new bed, new bed linen, a microwave and a fridge freezer from the Phoenix Fund. The four starter packs already handed over by Ilkley Soroptimists include kitchen essentials, duvets, cleaning equipment.

The 2 Keighley Refuges are managed through Staying Put, a Bradford based voluntary organisation which aims to keep people in their own homes, if practical allowing children to continue in their school. Staying Put works closely with the police and often deploys lock changes, panic alarms and 'key houses'.

Ilkley Soroptimists are continuing to fundraise, the latest packs being financed by a fashion show, whilst Ilkley have an ongoing collection of toiletries for the Refuge.



L-R: Libby Chapell, Loraine Powell, June Walker, Janet Ramsden, Marilyn Haythornthwaite, Jenny Humphreys, Janet Munro, Felicite White, Pauline Doyle, President Margaret Cook

## SI Ilkley

## Eventful Times

### SI Harrogate & District

#### Harrogate Soroptimists present over £11000 to Just'B'

Immediate Past President Sandra Frier, was able to present Just'B's Community and Challenge Events Fundraiser, Sandra Gilbert, with a cheque for over £11000 last year

President Sandra and members had been fundraising for over 18 months, mostly through the restraints of Covid, to raise money for the bereavement counselling arm of Saint Michael's Hospice. From fashion shows through sponsored walks to antique valuations online, Sandra and her team worked incredibly hard to raise this money.

President Sandra said "It felt quite emotional after such a long and difficult period to be able to hand over this money. Our members have worked so hard and been so supportive."



IPP Sandra Frier presents Sandra Gilbert, Community and Challenge Events Fundraiser for Just'B' with a cheque for over £11000.

#### The Gill Smith Award for Best Girl Improver, Harrogate Spa Tennis Centre

President, Val Hills, was delighted to present Kathryn Hubbard with the Gill Smith Shield for Best Girl Improver at the Harrogate Spa Tennis Centre recently.

Kathryn's mum Louise said, 'It was a lovely surprise and Kathryn was very pleased to receive the award. She is 13 years old, very keen on sport and has been playing tennis since she was six. She loves to play and is keen to improve so assisting Head Coach Mark McTurk at sessions with the younger players all helps.' The family all play tennis and Kathryn is hoping to partner

her mother or father in doubles, playing in the local tennis leagues in the near future.

The award is presented annually in memory of member Gill Smith. Gill loved tennis and was a former member of Harrogate Spa.



Kathryn Hubbard, left, receiving her trophy from President Val Hills

#### Soroptimists Showcase The 5Ps

SI Harrogate and District's first face-to-face meeting of 2022 showcased their Programme Action work. After welcoming two new members, Lynne Clark and Jan Pratt, President Val Hills introduced a number of speakers.

Jo Swire from IDAS told members about the work of Women's Refuges in the Harrogate and Ripon Areas. Then Jenna Collins, the Children and Young People's Service Manager from Just'B', part of North Yorkshire Hospice Care spoke about the pre-bereavement, bereavement and emotional well-being support their team gives to young people and the work they do in partnership with local schools.

Finally Chris Wild, from Yorkshire Energy Systems, delivered a fascinating talk on sustainable energy and how air-source heat pumps and solar panels could be the quickest way to achieve Net Zero carbon emissions by 2050.

#### Soroptimists Honour Past Members

Despite the rain, President Val Hills planted a tree by the River Wharfe in Wetherby in February. The tree, a silver birch, was planted in memory

of past members and follows the planting of trees in Ripon and Harrogate to celebrate over 100 years of Soroptimism.



President Val and 12 members of the club, including three from Wetherby, were delighted to be joined by the Mayor of Wetherby, Councillor Neil O'Byrne, who spoke of the invaluable work done for women and girls by Soroptimists in the district.

#### Resurrected Bites

Founder and CEO of Resurrected Bites, Michelle Hayes, gave a talk to members. She talked about the two cafes and community grocery stores the charity has set up in Harrogate and Knaresborough since early 2018. Explaining how the Covid pandemic affected their plans, they quickly adapted and between March 2020 and July 2021 had delivered food and other essential items to the equivalent of 15808 people in the Harrogate area. Afterwards, President Val Hills presented Michelle with a cheque for £100.



Michelle Hayes (2nd right), from Resurrected Bites with President Val Hills and Janet Morrow.

IPP Sandra Frier then gave an additional cheque for £100 to Sandra Gilbert from Just'B', bringing the total to over £11000 raised by SI Harrogate and District during Sandra's Presidency.



## Money Match Funding

### SI Richmond and Dales Double Their Money

Just the Job is a social enterprise supporting adults with a wide range of abilities in practical, work orientated therapeutic activities. Team members are supported, empowered and nurtured to access practical work skills training, life skills and social activities.

SI Richmond and Dales provided refreshments at Open Garden days at Mr. Yorke's Walled Garden and a Quiz night to contribute £1,000 to Just the Job's 'Big Green Build' project. This aims to provide a larger, specialist eco building for the charity. The Earl of Ronaldshay has donated the land for the new building and will match fund



money raised over the next few months, turning the club's cakes and quiz night into £2,000.

## SI Richmond & Dales

## Projects by the Hundred!

As part of the centenary celebrations members of Soroptimist International Wakefield have been involved in a number of projects.

**Mary's Meals:** They sent £50 to Mary's Meals to purchase 100 mugs and plates for children to use for their main meal whilst at school.



This money, if sent in January, would be doubled, so that is what members agreed to do and 200 mugs and plates were purchased.

**Blankets:** Two members have created blankets.

The first was 100 crocheted squares which were then crocheted together, the second was 100 knitted squares joined together.



These were then donated to residential homes, as knee blankets.



**Bras:** Members collected 100 bras and these have been sent to Smalls for All. A Scottish charity which collects underwear to give to adults and children in need in Africa and the UK



**Trees:** SI Wakefield members have been working with SI Dewsbury & District members for a number of years helping them to plant trees in Dewsbury Park and in December members of SI Dewsbury & District joined SI Wakefield members to plant 100 trees in a designated area of land. They actually planted over 150 trees and not only did they plant these trees, they also purchased and planted on behalf of both club's two Redwood Trees. These were planted in a newly designated arboretum in Dewsbury Park.



The first programme action project of the first Soroptimist club, was to save the Redwood Trees, so members thought this was a fitting way to celebrate 100 years of Soroptimist International

*Judith Alce*

## SI Wakefield

## Soroptimist International Yorkshire Region

### A Word from the Editor

IWD and the situation in Ukraine are at the forefront of everyone's thoughts this month. Let's hope for a peaceful outcome in the near future

'Slava Ukraini'

Liz Hayes

### Newsletter Submission Guidelines

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

Obituaries: maximum 150 words

email: ehayes1@sky.com

## Diary Dates - 2022

### April

Saturday 23rd Officers meeting - half day, Bridge Inn, Walshford

### May

Saturday 21st Domestic Violence Conference - details on Page 2

### June

Saturday 18th RCM, Askham Grange Prison

### July

1st-3rd Residential weekend at Jonas Centre, Leyburn

Tuesday 5th Officers meeting - evening, Venue TBC

### September

Saturday 17th RCM + AGM at Holiday Inn Barnsley

### October

Saturday 15th Officers meeting, Venue TBC

27th - 29th SIGBI Conference, Belfast

**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - June 5th 2022**

## Obituaries

### Vivien England

#### SI Sheffield

Honorary member Vivien England, died on 10th December 2021 the day before her 93rd birthday.

Viv had been a member of Sheffield Club for over 50 years. Her profession was physiotherapy which was remarkable as she was and always had been of slight build.

She was very private and unassuming but hard working and always with a smile on her face. She never wished to be President but gave dedicated service to the Club particularly in the management and upkeep of our house in Nether Edge, which was used for Club meetings as well as being rented out to other organisations.

She lived a quiet life latterly. Her great passion was gardening and her own large garden - and that of Rundle

Road were beautifully stocked and maintained. She will be sadly missed

### Susan Murray MBE

#### SI Sheffield

Sue Murray died on 15th February 2022 at the age of 98. She was a long standing member of SI Sheffield joining in the mid 1970s and serving as President 1985/6.

Her Soroptimist category was voluntary social worker and she was awarded an MBE for voluntary work, setting up and running a school clothing service, in 1995.

She was Mistress Cutler alongside her husband Graham who was Master Cutler in 1974. Sue and Graham had 3 daughters - one of whom Jane - is also a member of SI Sheffield.

She was a private person in many ways but very kind and

generous and always willing to help.

Sue exemplified a life of service to others and was involved with many different Sheffield charities throughout her life.

She will be sadly missed.

### Christine Withers

1931-2022

#### SI Dewsbury & District



Christine died on March 1st in the Care Home where she had lived for three years following a fall at home. She joined SI Dewsbury in 1978 her Category was Principal Catering Officer for Kirklees MBC and following retirement in 1987 Justice of the Peace a

position she held with pride.

She was club President in 1985/6 with charities of Cancer Relief and Multiple Sclerosis and attended the International convention in Melbourne in 1987. She was an Honorary member of SI Dewsbury.

Christine had many sporting involvements- hockey, tennis, cricket and badminton. In 1998 she became Captain of the Yorkshire Veteran Ladies Golf Association organising county matches and championships at Dewsbury District Golf Club, her lowest handicap being eight. She was also a member of Hanging Heaton Golf Club.

She was a Past President of the Ladies Lifeboat Guild. Other interests included gardening, travelling, photography and bridge.

She will be greatly missed by nephew Martin and members.