



Soroptimist International Yorkshire Region Newsletter



SPRING 2023

#EmbraceEquity

Mothers Union & Soroptimists Walk For International Women's Day

Brayton Mothers' Union and Selby Soroptimists walked together to mark International Women's Day on Wednesday 8 March. They were joined by other women, some men and two dogs! The walks were circular from and back to St Wilfrid's Church, with a shorter and longer version. Refreshments followed in the Parish Hall.

Before the walk, a photograph was taken of everybody hugging themselves to #EmbraceEquity.

For the third year, SI Scarborough joined with Inspiring Women to celebrate International Women's Day 2023. #EmbraceEquity



Rita Leaman and Angela Edwards pictured above

This year the event was held at the Stephen Joseph Theatre. Scarborough members acted as stewards and also had an information stand.



Member Janice Clark



Angela Edwards with women from the organisers, Yorkshire in Business.

The theme for International Women's Day 2023 is #EmbraceEquity. This global campaign aims to highlight the difference between equality and equity. Equality means that each individual is given the same resources to help them succeed. Equity understands that each person has different circumstances and life situations, which means resources need to be tailored to reach an equal outcome for all. Equal opportunities are no longer enough and the world needs to start talking about and embracing equity. People marking International Women's Day 2023 were asked to hug themselves to reflect #EmbraceEquity

International Women's Day

Clubs Embraced Equity at many spring events

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Celebration Appreciation



SI Yorkshire celebrated with Honorary member Elizabeth Hughes her recent milestone birthday and magnificent 50 years of service to Soroptimism.

lovely young ladies are from our local Ukrainian refugee community and they brought

those beautiful children along to sing to us."

Elizabeth has sent her thanks to everyone concerned:

"It is with a full heart that I write to thank the members for their cards, gifts, messages and attendance at the event in December celebrating my 90th birthday and 50 years of Soroptimist Service. It was an unforgettable evening of memories, friendship and fun . Thank you."

Elizabeth Hughes
SI Ilkley



Pictures from the event

"I wanted refugees to be part of the celebration as they have been part of my life since a young teenager . These two

Caring For Our Own

The Benevolent Fund

As the SI Yorkshire Trustee, Rita Leaman is visiting clubs on Zoom or in person, to give a presentation on the Benevolent Fund.

If you would like Rita to visit your club, please get in touch.

Also for anyone who feels they could be helped by the Benevolent Fund, please

contact Rita. Information is treated with 100% confidentiality.

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Planting trees in **Gawthorpe**



'Mirfield girls' from **SI Dewsbury** collecting for **Ukraine**

SI Dewsbury & SI Wakefield
#EmbraceEquity



Garforth Elmet quiz & Afternoon tea



Kirklees College IWD winning poster - sponsored by SI Dewsbury



Snowdrops visit to Brodsworth Hall



Attending Ossett Rotary IWD lunch

Eventful Times

SI Harrogate & District



Members dressed in traditional costume or the colours of the national flags for a Friendship Evening on November 16th to celebrate all the club's friendship links around the world.

Maureen Ingleton raised over £800 for the Harrogate District Food Bank after



completing the Great North Run. Maureen presented the cash to Dawn Cussons, Manager of the Food Bank, after completing the course in just over three hours and it was the 8th time she has entered and completed this Run. Over the years she has raised thousands of pounds for various charities



President Val and eight members attended the Federation Conference which held in Belfast. During the Conference, the Harrogate members handed over a 'Peace Square', sewn by member Tricia Chapman, to SI San Fernando from Trinidad and Tobago to become part of a quilt which will be on display at the Dublin Convention next year.

This year's winner of the Gill Smith Tennis Trophy was Emma Craig of Harrogate Spa Tennis Club. The trophy, given annually by Soroptimists to the best girl improver in the

District, is awarded in memory of the late Gill Smith who loved tennis and was a member of the Harrogate Club as well as Harrogate Spa.



President Val Hills laid a wreath at the War Memorial in central Harrogate.



Harrogate & District Soroptimists have partnered with Rossett School by offering sixth form students to be part of their Sharing our Skills project. Students gain valuable experience and transferable skills which they can take forward into their future, have the opportunity to get involved in community projects and to raise awareness of worldwide issues. The students developed a short presentation which focussed on three issues: female genital mutilation; violence against disabled women and national day of remembrance, explaining how they can spread awareness.



The Sixth Form students and teachers went Orange to show support for the need for change to end violence against women and girls.

Harrogate and Knaresborough MP, Andrew Jones, was invited to speak in #GreatBigGreenWeek about how Parliament is tackling Climate Change.

The Government's aim is to reach zero carbon by 2050.



Government departments must demonstrate how this will be achieved. The country now produces 40% of our energy from renewable resources. But change will take time and money especially in replacing the gas boilers in 40 million homes.



Members spent a wonderful evening at the Masonic Hall celebrating Christmas. An excellent meal, followed by home grown entertainment.



Members wore purple to celebrate International Women's Day. President Val presented Elsie Johnston with her Honorary Lifetime membership for service to Soroptimism and the fantastic leadership she gave for nearly 20yrs for their Service Project, Contact the Elderly. This was followed by a presentation about three local women who had made a big difference to the lives of others—founder of the Club, Dr Kathleen Rutherford MBE, then the first Yorkshire woman to qualify as a Doctor, Dr Laura Veale and, finally, the First Lady Mayor of Harrogate and Honorary Alderman, Mary Fisher MBE.

Lesley Berry

Lunch & Long Service



After four years absence, it gave SI Scarborough much pleasure to hold their 84th Charter Lunch on March 11th. The club welcomed SI

Yorkshire members from all over the Region, together with SI Yorkshire President, Jane Glendinning.

One of their members, Helen Hyams was awarded a Long Service Certificate for 35 years membership of Soroptimist International.

SI Scarborough



Fund Raising Quiz

SI Selby hosted a quiz on Friday 17 February, at Haddlesey Church Community Hall. Ten teams competed with over 60 people participating. Quiz Masters June and Dave Bryan posed 7 rounds of questions about history, books, sport, travel, music, news, food and drinks. There were anagram puzzles about countries and TV, and a picture round of famous faces. The quiz was challenging but very enjoyable. All the teams did well. At the end, there was a tie breaker between "The Duffers" and "Brayton Too" - how much did Princess Diana's letters sell for at a recent auction? Brayton Too gave the nearest answer to £161,000 and so were declared the winners.

Judith Cooke, Honorary Member of SI Selby, said "we are a voluntary service organisation and the quiz is our major fund raiser. So we were very pleased that we raised over £720 on Friday evening. This money will go to Soroptimist charities, particularly to our sister clubs in Ukraine and Turkey, where the members are

supporting the victims of the invasion and the earthquake. We also help local charities".

Judith also congratulated Brayton Too, everyone who had come to the quiz and all the members of SI Selby for their different contributions to a successful and most pleasant evening.

Photo: Selby member Margaret Burnett (in red)

in front of the new banner with Brayton Too



SI Selby

Service Rewarded

I am delighted to be able to share this unexpected good news for our club SI Skipton in Craven. Letter received from Craven District Council:

"Award of the Freedom of the District to Soroptimist International of Skipton in Craven.

It is with great pleasure that I write to inform you that the Council, at a Special Meeting held on Tuesday the 7 February 2023, resolved, in recognition of the organisation's distinguished and eminent service rendered to Craven District, that Freedom of the District is

conferred to Soroptimist International of Skipton in Craven. The Council further resolved that a formal presentation of the appointment will take place at the meeting of the Council on Thursday the 30th March 2023 at 6.00pm in Skipton Town Hall.

The Roll of Honour situated in the Lobby of 1 Belle Vue Square will be updated to include Soroptimist International of Skipton in Craven"

Rosalie Holroyd
President

SI Skipton in Craven

Soroptimist International Yorkshire Region

A Word from the Editor

SI Yorkshire clubs Embraced Equity all across the region this spring for IWD.

Please send reports of your club's activities for the next newsletter in July to share with everyone.

Liz Hayes

Diary Dates - 2023

April

Saturday 15th Officers meeting Ramada Inn, J40 M1

May

Sunday 14th Incoming Presidents' Lunch

Wed 17th Regional Friendship day at Newby Hall

June

Saturday 17th RCM, Askham Grange Prison

July

Saturday 1st Officers meeting, Venue TBC

27-29th S.I. Convention, Dublin

September

Saturday 23rd RCM + AGM at Bridge Inn, Walshford

November

3rd-4th SIGBI London Conference

Saturday 25th RCM & Yorkshire Lunch

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - June 4th 2023

Obituaries

Shirley Turner

SI Keighley

Shirley was President from April 1999, and led us into the new Millennium with enthusiasm and fun. She was an enthusiastic President, and made meetings and endeavours in Soroptimism enjoyable.

Shirley was a Pharmacist at Airedale General Hospital and worked there for many years until her retirement. Shirley and Joyce Grieves, started reading support with children from St. Andrew's Primary School. Later this activity moved to Eastwood primary school where members still help.

Shirley and her husband attended many dinners and social functions held by our Cluster clubs and she loved going to the Annual Conferences. Having moved to Guiseley she continued with the club supporting us with coffee mornings and joining us on Zoom. She died unexpectedly on 6th November, and after 37 years of service, and will be missed by our Club.

Annie Speller

SI Keighley

Annie was our President in 2014, during our 80th year, and led us in our celebrations, including a garden party at her home and a ceilidh at Bolton Abbey. Annie had a degree in Textiles, but later added an Open University degree in the biosciences to support her understanding of food technology as she started her Healthy Eating programme and pioneering (at the time) business.

She started off making muesli in a spare bedroom, for friends and relatives. This grew into a full business using healthy foodstuffs and supplements, eventually she found suitable premises to extend her business, with her final shop "offShoots on Cavendish Street, Keighley was well known.

In her spare time she was a Morris dancer and travelled the country with her husband at weekends, with the Flag Crackers group.

Annie was diagnosed with a brain tumour, requiring her to sell up her shop but still

attended meetings including via Zoom. The final year found her requiring 24/7 care before her death in November. She is sadly missed by us all.

Janet Town

SI Dewsbury

1953 - 2023



Janet Town joined SI Dewsbury in June 2010. She had been in education but was retired when she joined the club. She was Club President 2012-2013, Club secretary and the Safety link with the region. She supported the British Heart Foundation and the Girl Guide Association.

She was married to David and had two daughters, Arwen and Emily and a grandson Elliott. Janet had been having respite care in a nursing home. She was taken to St James and passed away on February 16th with all her family at her side.

Paddy Padley

SI Hallamshire

Paddy died on February 13th aged 93

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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