



Soroptimist International Yorkshire Region Newsletter



SUMMER 2022

Jubilant Yorkshire



Jubilee celebrations around the region.

Clockwise: Afternoon tea at Dewsbury, Cakes at Garforth, a Jubilee Fair at Selby, Wakefield's Jubilee Party

See clubs news for more details



Yorkshire Celebrates

- After two quiet lockdown years, Clubs were out in force for the recent Platinum Jubilee celebrations, Friendship walk and Afternoon tea events

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Revisiting 'Chain gang' links...

Chain Gang 2008-9



6 members of the 2008/2009 Chain Gang met at the Rockingham Arms, Towton on Sunday May 8th for lunch. It

was lovely to catch up and eat nice food. Thanks to Angela Edwards for arranging it.

... and forging new ones

Welcoming New Presidents



On Sunday May 29th President Lindsay and IPP Linda welcomed Presidents representing 12 clubs to the incoming/outgoing Presidents

Lunch. The start of the 5Ps Chain Gang.

We had a lovely lunch, a few bubbles and of course a silly game! There was lots of fun

and friendship, which was intended. Many thanks to the SI Selby members who waited on us so professionally.

Linda Davis

Friendship Walk

On June 16th we had the first (of many hopefully) Yorkshire Friendship Walk.

We all eventually got the train to Marsden after problems with the signals.

The weather was glorious, the company excellent and at the end of the 4.2 mile walk we had a tasty lunch with drinks at the Northern Sole Cafe in Slaithwaite.

L-R: Anna Giraud, Elaine Hough, Judith Alce, Linda Davis, Janine Maw, Jane Richardson, Olwen Fisher, Angela Stocks, Susie Westwood, Sue Glover Front row Hilary Putman and Pat Thornes.

Linda Davis



SI Yorkshire

Afternoon Tea



On June 17th the hottest day of the year SI Yorkshire members met for afternoon tea with SI President Maureen Maguire at The Bridge Inn at Walshford..

Photo L-R: SI Yorkshire President Lindsay and SI President Maureen Maguire

Many thanks to Pat Thornes and Hilary Putman for supplying the photos.

Editor



Updates from Dnipro

SI Selby Friendship Link

NEWS OF OUR FRIENDSHIP LINK CLUB – SI DNIPRO. UKRAINE

SI Selby has an established Club Friendship Link with SI Dnipro, Ukraine Since the Russian invasion, we have maintained our email contact, sending our love, friendship and support. We have also made financial donations, offered accommodation in Selby to members of SI Dnipro, their family and friends, and tried to zoom with them. So far, unsuccessfully.

Some members of SI Dnipro have left the city and are in western Europe. Nataliya P now lives outside the city with her ailing Mother but continues to teach, on line, her university students in Dnipro. Nataliya sends regular emails to SI Selby and posts on facebook.

Her most recent facebook page says :

“ Soroptimist club of Dnipro continues its project “Nadiia” (“Hope”). This is its new page which appeared due to the war in Ukraine: assistance to the refugees affected by the warfare in Ukraine, assistance to the centres providing food, temporary housing, as well as helping specific people and families who have experienced a great personal tragedy.



Acquaintance with Yuliia Larionova, a young 38-year-old woman, and her children (11-year-old son and 14-year-old daughter) impressed me and at the same time gave me the strength to help people. Yuliia is from Mariupol. Today the name of the city does not need to be explained not only to Ukrainians, but also to progressive people around the world. Yuliia has not lost her sense of friendliness, humanity, dignity and intellectuality after seeing the ashes of her house, after the funeral of a young neighbour who was shot by a grenade launcher in his backyard. His wife Iryna Kravchenko and Yuliia buried him together. They hid in the basements for more than three weeks. Only on April 15 they miraculously escaped from the city. For seven days Yulia with her children and Iryna Kravchenko with her two-year-old daughter were getting to the city of Dnipro. Only from

Melitopol they were lucky enough to take a private taxi to Zaporizhzhia: the drivers refused to go, explaining that it was a one-way road. The road of life turned out to be very difficult and dangerous. Yulia is a strong, optimistic person. She loves her children very much and is proud of them. They are the winners of the All-Ukrainian ballroom dance competitions. Valeriia Kovalenko and her nine-year-old daughter Anastasiia escaped when hostilities broke out on their street in Kramatorsk. They managed to take only documents.



We are extremely grateful to the women from international clubs who care about our grief, sympathize with Ukrainians and provide various assistance to victims. Many thanks to the women of the Soroptimist Clubs of York (the UK) for the sincerity of their hearts, in particular to Lindsay Carol President SI Yorkshire 2021-2022 for her active help to the affected Ukrainians”

SI Selby will continue to offer support and friendship to Nataliya, to the other members of SI Dnipro and to the people of Ukraine as best we can.

The photographs were sent by Nataliya to SI Selby. They show the children picking their way through the devastated city and the family at a dance competition.

Hilary, Lindsay & Olwen SI Selby

Plenty Time for Tea

The outgoing four presidents presented a cheque for 3800.00 to the Forget Me Not Children's Hospice at the AGM.

The new presidential year started with a Time for a cocktail /cuppa event raising 205.00 for Dementia UK & Admiral Nurses.



The Jubilee was celebrated with an Afternoon Tea at President Pat's to raising 305.00 for the local refuge the charity of Presidents Debbie, Linda and Pat. The four PAs from the previous



year were presented with Soroptimist rose trees from the year of the octogenarians.

On June 11th it was Back to nature as members and friends explored the delights of Dewsbury Country park, ably assisted by Linda and Angela, They then joined other Dewsbury members for Afternoon Tea at Whiteley's Garden Centre.



Four bags of milk bottle tops were delivered to Cawthorne Village Tea Room for the Yorkshire Charity Bottle Top Collection. The milk bottle tops are sent to Van Werven in Selby for recycling and they give a donation to Yorkshire Cancer Research.



Party Night

After months of not meeting during the pandemic, the Queen's Platinum Jubilee was the ideal opportunity for SI Garforth Elmet to organise a party, and invite guests. By chance, President Pat had had a conversation with a friend who told her she had been on The Mall for the Coronation in 1953. Her memories of the day were fascinating, so Pat asked her if she would come to give a talk at their Jubilee event.

On the evening of 23rd May, they decked their meeting room with bunting. The table was prepared with a union flag table cloth, and glasses and bubbly were set out for guests as they arrived. People had been asked to bring a small plate of party food, and soon the table was groaning with a huge array of delicious food. One member made a beautiful cake, and another provided music of the era.



Margaret (now 89) gave a wonderful talk about her experiences of being at the Coronation, and

brought the Coronation souvenir booklet, and two newspapers from the time for the members to look at. This was followed by a quiz on Royalty with Yorkshire connections, and a raffle.



As well as club members the club were joined by President Lindsay, Hilary and Olwen from SI Selby, and non-Soroptimist friends. There was certainly enough food to feed the five thousand!

It was a wonderful evening of fun and friendship, that was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

Pat Kilbane, President of SI Garforth Elmet

SI Dewsbury & District

SI Garforth Elmet

Eventful Times

SI Harrogate & District

Striding out to stop hunger



In April the club registered the Soroptimist Striders as a team to join others throughout the UK on 2nd April to race against hunger by completing a 5K run/walk in aid of The Trussell Trust. President Val Hills, three members and two partners took part in walking from Bilton Junction along the old railway track to Ripley Castle. Over £600 was raised.

Garlands of Buttercups For Dementia Forward

To help celebrate Dementia Forward's 10th Anniversary members were asked to knit/crochet hundreds of buttercups. These were then used to make garlands to decorate Dementia Forward's HQ at The Hub in Burton Leonard.



Five club members took up the challenge and produced over 250 buttercups of various sizes. Two Club members, President Val Hills and Maureen Ingleton (who led the knitting team) were invited to join the celebrations at Burton Leonard. The buttercup garlands were a focal point around the porch and railings and were much admired by guests, including the Lord Lieutenant of North Yorkshire. The Club has committed to support dementia forward for two years with both financial and practical support.

Marta Seiler talks about her family and her faith

One of our members, Marta Seiler, gave a fascinating talk to fellow

members. Entitled "I am the product of my faith", Marta spoke about her family and upbringing in Hungary in the 1940s, 50s and 60s. Her parents managed to survive Hitler's persecution but many other family members didn't.



Marta (pictured with President Val) moved to England after taking A-levels to stay with her aunt in London. She found life outside Communist Hungary very different but very enjoyable. She then met her future husband and subsequently stayed here in Britain. After bringing up her family Marta had a successful career in the fashion industry. Marta became a founding trustee of the Manchester Jewish Museum and a GP. She moved to Harrogate to be near her family.

AGM April 2022



The Club welcomed Yorkshire President, Lindsay Green, to their 89th AGM. Lindsay presented 25 year Long Service Awards to Irene Kerr and Christabel England. Christine Anderson was elected Vice President whilst Val Hills is continuing as Club President and Pat Shore is President Elect. The Club is looking forward to a busy 12 months and is delighted to have welcomed four new members in the last year.

Visit To War Graves At Stonefall Cemetery

Members followed up a presentation by Elizabeth Smith from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission earlier in the year with a visit to the war graves at Stonefall Cemetery in Harrogate. Over 1000 men, mostly from Canada, Australia and New Zealand were laid to rest in Harrogate. Nearly all served in Bomber

Command during WW2.



There was the touching story of a family from New Zealand who lost their son in the war. They were unable to bring him home so moved to Harrogate to be near him.

Harrogate And District Achieves Toilet Twinning Status

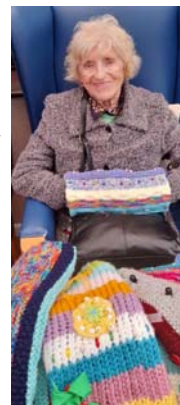
Harrogate is now a Toilet Twinned District. On their last day in office, the Mayor and Mayoress of Harrogate were presented with a framed certificate from President Val Hills and Project Leader, Sue Williams. 36 individual toilets and a toilet block of four have been twinned. That equates to £2400 donated by schools, the council, local businesses and, of course, Soroptimists.



President Val, the Mayor and Mayoress of Harrogate and members with the Toilet Twinning Certificate in the Valley Gardens.

TwiddleMuffs Donated to Dementia Residents at Larchfield Manor

Residents with dementia at Larchfield Manor received surprise gifts recently. Christine Anderson, Vice President, delivered twiddlemuffs knitted and donated by member Maureen Ingleton to the residents who include her own mother, Mrs. Margaret Anderson.



Celebrating International Women's Day

SI Richmond and Dales were delighted to welcome Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson to an event delayed from 2020. She spoke about her life in sport, politics and the challenges of living in a wheelchair. Her sporting achievements include 30 world records plus 11 gold, 4 silver and a bronze Olympic medal gained over 16 years. Joining the GB wheelchair racing squad at the age of 17, she also broke 30 world records.

SIGBI's theme for International Women's Day was Breaking the Bias and Tanni inspired us to seek a world where difference is valued and celebrated. She is now a champion of disability rights and welfare reform from her position in the House of Lords. To mark Tanni's visit the club purchased a cherry tree in the new forest being planted to commemorate 950 years of the founding of Richmond castle and has been entered into the SIGBI tree map.

Sue Young pictured with Dame Tanni



SI Richmond and Dales

Food Bank support

Scarborough Soroptimists met in April for their AGM and welcomed Angela Edwards as their new President 2022/23.

Donations of goods and cheques were made to Westway Open Arms Food Bank, Ryedale Food Bank in Malton and EVA Women's Aid. Trees have been planted to support 'Plant a Tree for the Jubilee'. Blister Packs collected for Superdrug's Recycling Scheme and stamps for various charities.



Club members are looking forward to launching a monthly Friendship Cafe at the Newby and Scalby Community Hub in June.

SI Scarborough

All Fun at the Fair

Selby Soroptimists celebrated Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee at the Fair on Brayton Green, on Saturday 4 June, with a stall decked out with bunting, and



special royal games for the children. There was a Name the Teddy – the prize being the teddy, complete with crown – and Pin a Crown on the Corgi, whilst blindfolded, with a prize for the child putting the crown in the best position. Both games drew the children to the stall. Every child received a Friendship bookmark.

Members took the opportunity to chat to the children's family and friends, or other adults interested in the display, about our activities and membership of Soroptimist International. Copies of Soroptimist leaflets and bookmarks were also handed out.

Pat Griffiths, a member of SI Selby, said " it was really nice to be part of this Jubilee Fair. A lot of people came, with their children , other family members and friends, We were pleased that so many came to our stall and enjoyed the Games, giving us the opportunity to talk about Soroptimism and give out our literature. It would be lovely if some ladies subsequently became Platinum Members of SI Selby."

Pictured above: SI Selby members : Hilary Putman, Clare Nutt, Pat Griffiths and Pam Middlebrook (left to right), at their stand at the Jubilee Fair

SI Selby

Soroptimist International Yorkshire Region

A Word from the Editor

A bumper turn out for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee across our region as members enjoyed the sunshine. SIY events too and the Jonas weekend to come.

Please send your Club's summer news for the next issue.

Liz Hayes

Diary Dates - 2022

July

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

Tuesday 5th Officers meeting, by Zoom

September

Saturday 17th RCM + AGM at Holiday Inn Barnsley

October

Saturday 15th Officers meeting, Venue TBC

27th - 29th SIGBI Conference, Belfast

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - September 4th 2022

Queen for the Day

Members of S I Wakefield & District were joined by Yorkshire President Lindsay and members of S I Dewsbury & District, S I Garforth Elmet and S I Selby to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. At the party Wakefield's Honorary Member Cynthia, whose 93rd birthday had been on June 1st, was crowned Wakefield's Catering Queen.

Cynthia always brings the most delicious cakes to every meeting of S I Wakefield.

Money was also raised for the Prince's Trust Children and Young People's Art foundation by selling T towels picturing The Queen - see page 1 for photo.



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

Dr Mary Gerrard

1951- 2022

SI Sheffield

Mary joined us in March 2020 just as the pandemic hit, so we never got the chance to get to know her.

She was born in Hull, the eldest of 9 children. She studied to be a doctor at St

Andrews and also took an Hons degree in Biochemistry. After completing her studies in 1977 she became the first female House Officer at Manchester Royal Infirmary.

In 1988 she became a paediatric consultant at Sheffield Children's Hospital. She was a pioneer in child cancer services, very well

thought of by her colleagues and patients. The family received 1000 tributes in 2 days many from former cancer patients she saved as children.

She was a good badminton player, cook, dressmaker and had a lifelong love of music, history, art and literature.

A sudden and tragic loss