



Soroptimist International Yorkshire Region Newsletter



WINTER 2022

Regional Officers 2022-23



Immediate Past President
Lindsay Green



President
Jane Glendinning



President Elect
Susie Westwood



Vice President &
Joint Communications
Officer
Sue Butler



Secretary
Judith Clark



Treasurer
Susan Mendoza



Development Officer
Sam Lawson



Minute Secretary
Sally Kendall



Joint Chair Programme Action
Linda Davis



Jennie Gillham



Avis Ball



Joint Membership Officers

Judith Parsons



Joint Communications Officer
Liz Lyle



Benevolent Fund Rep
Rita Leaman



Federation Councillor
Angela Edwards

Regional Council

- The new team line up for the camera at the Regional Council meeting in November

Inside this issue:

SIY	2
Conference	3
Clubs news	4-8
Diary Dates	9
Obituaries	9

Past Presidents Dine Out

SIY

On September 23rd 15 S I Yorkshire Past Presidents met for a meal at the Rockingham Arms, Towton. It was a lovely lunch, great company and lots of fun and friendship.

Back row: Chris Clark, Hilary Putman, Pat Shore, Lesley Berry, Sylvia Wilson, Liz Lyle, Margaret Cook, Rita Leaman, Jenny Heptonstall, Judith Alce.

Front row: Thelma De Leeuw, Angela Edwards, Linda Davis, Pam James, Jennie Levick.



New Members Observe Officers Meeting

On Saturday 15th October 2022 4 members new to the Yorkshire Region sat in and observed the Regional Officers Meeting as a way of getting to know the people involved and how the meetings are run.

For the first time in Yorkshire the morning was followed by a lunch attended by a further 4 new members. Time was spent in the afternoon sharing information about why and how people join Soroptimism and how longer serving members have successfully had a fulfilling experience whilst serving women and girls locally, nationally and internationally.

The new members represented clubs from Bingley, Garforth Elmet, Harrogate and District, Scarborough, Selby and Sheffield and will become an annual event aimed at welcoming all new members to our region.



Launch of Online Safety Bookmarks

SIYAMS



What could be better than Online Safety bookmarks designed by young people themselves? The SIYAMS group has worked closely with Yr 7 and Yr 8 students from Heckmondwike Grammar

School to design a bookmark. Two were chosen, and this week, President Jane, Chris Clark and I had the privilege of presenting the students with certificates and book tokens. The bookmarks are now printed and available for all Yorkshire clubs. Many thanks to Jane Whitelaw for facilitating the



project, and giving us the opportunity to work in partnership with the school.

Pat Kilbane, Chair of SIYAMS



Autumn Activities

SI Dewsbury & District



September was Zarach month, a teddy tombola was held on the 2nd and the speakers for September gave a presentation 'Zarach Eat Sleep & Learn' about their work. A cheque for 153.00 was presented to the charity.

A Coffee morning on October 20th raised 271.25 for the Presidents' charity of the local refuge. The next event in November of a Christmas Food & wine tasting raised another 207.00 for the charity.

Members enjoyed a visit to the National Arboretum on the 15th, some explored by train followed by lunch. Presidents Debbie and Linda

pictured with the Women's Land Army and Lumber Jill's sculpture



Christmas Shoeboxes have been filled and sent to Teams4U.

Recycling of blister packs, milk bottle tops, spectacles and ring pulls is ongoing along with sending items to smalls4all.

Links for Programme Action

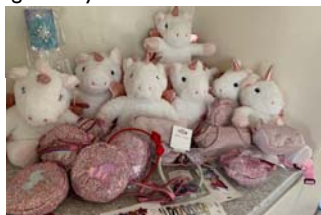
SI Halifax

SI Halifax has been forming links with other organisations to help with our Programme Action work and this is proving to be very successful. The first link is with 'The Love Grace' Charity. Grace Millard was killed on the eve of her 22nd birthday whilst travelling in New Zealand. Grace's family have created a legacy in her name by fundraising for The White Ribbon Campaign charity, promoting awareness to end male violence against women. They have created 'Love Grace' bags which contain everyday essentials and treats that will benefit women in Refuges and help them on the road to a safe future with the powerful slogan 'Believe in Yourself, as you matter!' They gave us over 30 beautiful handbags and some rucksacks for the children with cuddly toys inside which we took to the Calderdale Women's Refuge.

Another link we have made is the Mother's Union in Brighouse which runs cookery courses and craft activities for the women at New Hall Prison. Our club members provided cookery utensils and craft materials for them to use.

In the summer we were asked if we would like some end of line backpacks and bags to give to the children of the Refuge and the children were thrilled to receive such appealing gifts.

In Breast Cancer Week in October SI Halifax were able to have our Wear it Pink Stall in Harveys of Halifax once again after a break of two years with the pandemic. SI Halifax raised £300.20p plus £30 in Gift Aid contributions. Harveys is a wonderful department store complete with a restaurant. It is full of beautiful Christmas gifts and goodies at this time of the year and it is only a few minutes away from the Piece Hall for a good day out!



SI Halifax has always provided The Women's Refuge with Advent Calendars, toiletries and gifts for the women and toys for the children at Christmas. The

Refuge has 21 apartments and this year there are 33 children living there at present. Halifax Calder Rotary Club asked if they could link with us and have given us a cheque for £330 to spend on providing the toys and games for the children.

SI Halifax has 16 active members; a new member, Brigid, was enrolled in September and she joined Rosi Gemmell in the Remembrance Day Parade through Halifax to the Cenotaph to lay the SI Halifax Poppy Wreath on behalf of the Club.



Save the date! SI Halifax looks forward to welcoming everyone to our 95th Annual Lunch on the 21st May 2023 at Crow Nest Golf Club with details to be sent out in the New Year.

Eventful Times



HARROGATE SOROPTIMISTS VISIT NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM

In September 24 Soroptimists from the Harrogate Club, together with members from Ilkley and Dewsbury, travelled to Alrewas, Staffordshire to visit the National Memorial Arboretum. Upon arrival we were taken into the beautiful chapel to hear about the history of the Arboretum from one of the many volunteers. Afterwards, some wandered around the memorials whilst others took the road train to take full advantage of the 150 acre site, on the edge of the National Forest.

The visit was amazing and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone even if part of the Soroptimist memorial was away for repair.

FROM ST HELENA TO HARROGATE

President Val Hills gave a fascinating presentation to fellow members recently. An avid family historian, Val talked about her research into her family tree, giving lots of tips to would be genealogists on the 'do's and don'ts' of researching family trees.

In particular, Val linked her family tree to the island of St Helena in the South Atlantic where her great grandmother was born. Well known for its connection with the imprisonment of Napoleon Bonaparte, St Helena was

administered by the East India company from the 17th century to the 19th century as it was an important stopping place for merchant ships coming from India and the Far East. Coffee plantations sprang up and slaves and indentured servants were brought over from Africa and India to work in them. Amongst them was Val's many times great grandfather named Mercury after the ship he arrived on. President Val's great grandmother Mary Mercury left for South Africa in 1884 where she met her husband. The abolition of slavery in Saint Helen in 1839 was a 'Bitter Draught' with slaves being forced to take out loans to buy their freedom. Loans that were almost impossible to pay back. The value of a healthy male slave was £100 - equivalent to many thousands of pounds today.

89th CELEBRATORY LUNCH

President Val welcomed the Mayor of the Borough of



L- R: Cllr. Victoria Oldham, Mayor of Harrogate, President Val, SIY President Lindsay and Jonathan Hills

Harrogate, Councillor Victoria Oldham to the 89th Charter Lunch at Goldsbrough Hall. 60 members from 10 different clubs attended the event including the President of SI Yorkshire, Lindsay Green.

Val's husband, Jonathan, a talented musician, played the piano in the drawing room as the guests assembled for drinks before lunch was served. Afterwards, guests were invited to wander around the beautiful gardens which looked resplendent in the Autumn sunshine.

SI Harrogate & District

HYGGE EVENT RAISES OVER £720 FOR DEMENTIA FORWARD

Heather Goodall from Soroptimist International of Harrogate and District and friend Diane Fleming organised a Hygge (pronounced how-ugh) Lunch Event earlier in October. It raised a fantastic £712 for Dementia Forward. The heaven's may have opened but that didn't detract from a lovely homemade soup and fresh bread lunch served in Heather's garden.



Heather Goodall and Di Fleming

In Denmark, Hygge is described as an event that brings courage, comfort and joy. Despite the heaviest rain in months, delicious soups, home-made bread plus cakes warmed everyone up. The Hygge Shop sold beautiful handmade bags, oven gloves, tasty scones, delicious crumbles, and chutneys and much more. Gazebos gave protection from the elements keeping the guests warm, dry and snug.

Majestic Planting with Friends

SI Ilkley

There have been daffodils on a grassy hillock very near the centre of Ilkley, adjacent to the A65, since 1977. Bulbs were planted originally on this spot by Ilkley Soroptimists to celebrate the late Queen's Silver Jubilee. Over the years, the daffodils have become fewer in number and Ilkley members planned to restore the planting on the site to celebrate the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee. However, after recent events, an additional 1000 bulbs have now been planted, Dedicated to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's Seventy Years of Service.

The bulbs are of the same variety as the existing daffodils, but after 45 years, the method of planting has been entirely different. Ilkley Round Table enabled Soroptimists to purchase electric drills and bulb augers whilst Climate Action Ilkley brought along long handled planters. 1000 bulbs being planted in well less than three hours with a local garage allowing members to recharge



L-R: Sue Butler, Loraine Powell, Libby Chappell, Andrew Munro, Brenda Brown, Angela St John, Margaret Cook

batteries for the cordless drills and kindly provided welcome coffees. A much greater cross section of ages and abilities will be able to enjoy being involved in bulb planting using bulb augers which are simple and easy to handle. The drills and augers will now be available for other voluntary groups or schools to use across the town, the first hand-on, being for use with the planting of a steep banking overlooking the river

Wharfe, coordinated by Climate Action Ilkley. It is a financially sound and a green benefit to share this equipment which is mainly seasonal. A small plaque recording the historic reason for this additional planting will be placed on the site later in the year. This restoration of planting should provide a magnificent display in Spring 2023.

Tea and Togs

SI Richmond & Dales

Richmond and Dales put the tea in tea dance: the club provided the raffle, tea, coffee and cake at the invitation of the band master for the first of what he hopes will be a series of tea dances at Richmond Town Hall during this winter. Dances included the foxtrot, waltz, quickstep as well as the bossa nova. Richmond Town Hall has seen many dances since it opened in 1756 and the club were pleased to be asked to provide the refreshments.



In other news - members are preparing a 'warm rail' of coats and jackets, scarves and gloves at the local foodbank for people to take if they need them. The club has bought the rail and members have donated but it isn't set up yet.

They also ran a quiz and we are pleased that their friendship club, Durham, sent a team - 79 participants in a fun evening.

Finally **A save the date** will be coming round to say Dame Vera Baird, former Victims Commissioner will be the speaker to celebrate IWD on 30 March - tickets £15 at the Holiday Inn, Scotch Corner.

Inspirational Meetings

SI Selby invited Elizabeth Smith from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) to talk to the members and their guests on Wednesday 19 October.

Judith Cooke, who chaired the Meeting, said " Elizabeth's talk was very informative and most interesting "

Elizabeth is the Public Engagement Coordinator for the CWGC in the North of England. She explained how the Commission came into being and continues its work now to remember and honour the men and women of the Commonwealth who died in the First and Second World Wars, ensuring that they will never be forgotten. The CWGC maintains 23,000 cemeteries, graves and memorials across the world. This includes some in Selby Town and in Brayton, which Elizabeth had visited recently. She hoped to arrange tours of these local sites next year.

The Soroptimists and their guests – six "Soroptimisters " and a previous member of SISelby now living in Australia then had the opportunity to talk individually with Elizabeth.

Judith said "We all learnt a lot about the CWGC. Many of us had visited the Commission's cemeteries, graves and

memorials at home and abroad. They are all beautifully maintained and a fitting tribute to the men and women who died during the two World Wars.

It was also an opportune time for this Speaker meeting, with Remembrance Sunday and SI Selby participating in the Service of Remembrance in Selby Abbey and laying a wreath."



Photo L-R: Lindsay Green, Elizabeth Smith from the CWGC and Judith Cooke

SI Selby welcomed Jan Pickersgill and her daughter, Laura, to their meeting on Wednesday 2 November.

Jan and Laura are both volunteers with The Clothing Bank, which is based at Brotherton and supplies

donated clothing to people who are struggling to clothe themselves after everyday expenses. They explained how the charity was set up, has grown to meet the demand from people in need, and how it operates. Both Jan and Laura were very enthusiastic about the Charity.

The Soroptimists had supported The Clothing Bank previously and did so again after the talk by Jan and Laura. In addition to the clothing donations, a cheque for £100 was given to The Clothing Bank to help them buy bags for immediate distribution of preselected clothing, appropriate to the age and sex of the person needing them.

Members of SI Selby were invited to visit the Charity and said they would continue to support The Clothing Bank.



Members Lindsay Green (L) and Pat Griffiths (R) handing over the cheque and donated clothing to Jan and Laura Pickersgill from The Clothing Bank

Continuing Support for Ukraine

SI Selby has Club Friendship Links with SI Dnipro in Ukraine , and SI Frankenthal in Germany. Over the years, members of the three Clubs have corresponded by post and then electronically, visited each other and become friends. With covid initially and then the war in Ukraine, such visits have not been possible. But the friendships remain and the three Clubs have stayed in contact with e mails and by zoom.

A zoom meeting, with 20 members from the three Clubs, took place at the beginning of November. Olwen Fisher, a member of SI Selby, who liaises with the two European Clubs, said "it was wonderful that members from SI Dnipro were able

to join us on zoom. We really thought they would be unable to do so with the situation in Ukraine. Fortunately, Dnipro has not been as badly affected as other cities in Ukraine and, as far as we know, the members of SI Dnipro are safe. But things are not easy for them with shortages, power cuts etc. Whilst we were on zoom, the sirens sounded and some of their members had to leave the zoom and seek shelter".

Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine, SI Selby has been in constant contact with the members of SI Dnipro, sending them messages of support and love, prayers and financial donations. These have been used to buy food,

clothing and other essential items for Ukrainian people from the east and south, making their way to Dnipro. And to support the Ukrainian soldiers in hospital in Dnipro. The Selby Soroptimists are having a collection in December to send further money to the Dnipro Club so that they can continue to help others.

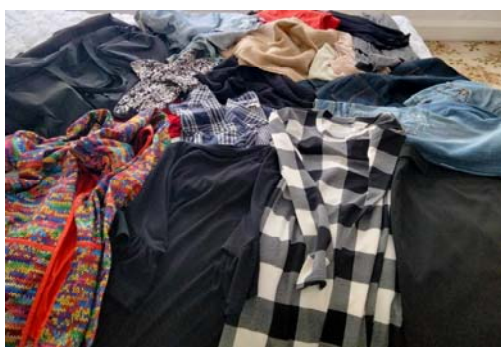
Natalya P, a member of SI Dnipro, wrote "My sisters and I are very grateful for the support of your Club. I would also like to thank you for the material assistance we have provided to the Ukrainians, with the money you have sent us. I sometimes call them up and they thank you everytime".

Help for City of Sanctuary

SI Wakefield & District

During the last few months, a member of S I Wakefield & District has visited Wakefield's City of Sanctuary project four times. On the first occasion she took three large bags of clothes, both male and female. On the second two suitcases full of men's clothes and the suitcases. On the third two small suitcases, one large case full of male and female clothes and a further two large suitcases, one exceptionally large.

On her fourth visit she was told that all these suitcases had been taken within 24 hours. People stay in Wakefield for a short period of time and when they do leave, to go to a more permanent home in the UK, one article they do need is a suitcase.



On Judith's fourth visit she took a large black grip full of young women's clothing. Including a smart black and white dress, a black dress and a black skirt and jacket. All suitable for a young woman to wear when going to an interview.

Staff at the City of Sanctuary project were very grateful for all that was taken, especially the suitcases.

In September, Literacy month, S I Wakefield & District members held a "What the Dickens" evening. Members read a passage from a book of their choice and provided an artefact that depicted the title. Members then guessed the



titles of all the books.

Children's books and dictionaries were also collected on that evening and during October. The books were then delivered to the City of Sanctuary project to support both adults and children with learning English.

The photograph shows a lady from Wakefield's City of Sanctuary receiving the books

In the summer edition of the Yorkshire newsletter, it was reported that S I Wakefield and District had held a Jubilee party at which T towels, featuring a picture of The Queen, were sold to raise money for The Prince's Trust.



A representative for the trust was contacted who informed the Club that The Prince's Trust had two projects in the Wakefield area:

A garden project at Apple Tree Community Garden in Agbrigg and

An outreach tea party for the Elderly to be held at Lightwaves in Wakefield.

Both the projects aim to support young people to work with the Community, gain life skills, build self-esteem and confidence.

A total of £120 was raised.

At their September meeting members welcomed Paul Blakey MBE, to speak about how Street Angels were set up and the different "Angels" that have developed from this idea of, people helping people; Club Angels, Festive Angels and not just in the UK but across the World. A donation of £150 was made.

RCM Sales Table - members would like to thank all who visited their sales table at the September RCM. You helped to raise £120, which has been shared between Wakefield Young Carers and Homestart.

Judith Alce

Soroptimist International Yorkshire Region

A Word from the Editor

An eventful time since the last newsletter with the many club events and Conference. Best wishes to incoming President Jane and congratulations on a very different year to IPP Lindsay.

*Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year
Liz Hayes*

Viewing the newsletter

Some clubs have reported members being unable to open and view the newsletter.

You need to have Acrobat Reader installed on your PC - this used to be included as standard, but is now available as a free download. Search for Acrobat Reader.

Ipads should be able to open the newsletter without any problems.

Diary Dates - 2023

January

Saturday 7th Officers meeting on Zoom

March

Wed 8th Regional Event IWD

Saturday 18th RCM, at Holiday Inn Barnsley

April

Saturday 15th Officers meeting Ramada Inn, J40 MI TBC

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

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - March 5th 2023

Obituaries

Frances Butler

1947 -2022

SI Northallerton and District

It is with great sadness that SI Northallerton and District announce the death of Frances Butler on 11th October.

Frances was a founder member of the club and from the outset played a very supportive role in all events. Her wit and wisdom in club meetings was ever present and much appreciated by us all.

Unfortunately, due to ill health, Frances was forced to resign from the club in April 2021, after which time she was very much missed by us all.

We extend our sympathy to her husband Ian, her daughter Joanne and son Kevin and her grandchildren at this sad time.

Sally Anne Longden

1956 - 2022

SI Scarborough

Sally Anne joined SI Scarborough in April 2015. She has been an active and supportive member of our club and a fantastic Minutes Secretary. Many words can be used to describe Sally Anne - kind, happy, busy, clever, outspoken, innovative, interesting and colourful to name a few.

Sally Anne was very close to her family, her husband, William, two daughters, Alice and Bethany and her much loved granddaughter, Genevieve. Her life was focused on her family and on her commitment to her local community.

It was a great shock when we heard that she had been diagnosed with terminal

cancer and her death, which followed very quickly after her diagnosis, was a sad and untimely event. She herself said 'It is far too soon. I have got such a lot still to do with my life!'

Her sense of humour and excellent organisational skills will be greatly missed by us all.

SI Policy on Obituaries

Following consultation with SIY & SIGBI for clarification on obituaries. The policy going forward is that obituaries of members who are no longer Soroptimists will not be accepted. This is not meant to disrespect previous members and their contributions to SI.

This is also inline with the SIGBI website

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