



# Soroptimist International Yorkshire Region Newsletter



SUMMER 2016

## Yorkshire Celebrates...

President Liz has hosted two Regional events during May and June: the Regional Conference on Saturday 14 May and the 80th Anniversary Afternoon Tea on Sunday 26 June.



The theme of the Regional Conference was "The World We are Making ". Margaret Emsley, President of SIGBI (pictured above) was the first speaker. Margaret spoke about her career , both professionally and in Soroptimism, and the importance of engineering, science and technology in today's world and the future. Mary Creagh, MP, then challenged us with three huge global issues: conflict., inequality and partnership. Mary also talked about the Sustainable Development Goals. Keith Clarkson, from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds was the last speaker in the morning. Keith had some lovely slides, showing classes of birds, which were declining because of modern pressures and those that were increasing because of the same changes. The morning concluded with an "Any Questions " session, when each of the three speakers responded to a

range of questions from the floor, arising from the earlier presentations and on environmental matters.

The afternoon sessions showcased practical projects involving recycling and upcycling and also using reclaimed materials to reconnect people to nature. The final speaker then spoke about today's challenges facing the children in her school. And concluded with selection of songs about the sea, performed by a Soroptimister.

Closing the Conference, President Liz asked all Clubs to bring any environmental projects that they were working on to the Regional Council Meeting in September

The Afternoon Tea to celebrate 80 years of Soroptimism in Yorkshire opened with President Liz and Thelma de Leeuw, Honorary Member of Yorkshire, cutting the cake - made by President Liz - accompanied by the assembled company, some

120 Yorkshire members, singing "Happy Birthday" Afternoon Tea was served at the table and comprised a selection of sandwiches, scones with jam and cream, a variety of cakes and lots of tea or coffee.



Entertainment followed in the form of a talk about the Scandalous Women of Hazlewood Castle and then "The Yorkshire Curd Tarts" - a musical group, who sang a number of songs about Soroptimism, all written by Elizabeth Hughes , and concluding with "Eating", when everyone joined in the chorus. Margaret Cook, Honorary Member of Yorkshire, gave a vote of thanks to all involved in the very enjoyable Afternoon Tea.

*Hilary Putman*



## Happy Birthday

- SI Yorkshire celebrates its 80th Birthday in style



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## June Update

### Zimlink

There's good news and bad news. First the bad news: the economic situation has deteriorated further and the country has completely run out of US\$ (the economy runs informally on US\$ since the Zimbabwe dollar collapsed). Banks are restricting withdrawals and days go by when no money is available at all. A new bond note may soon be introduced whose value will be on a par with the US\$ but this will have no value beyond Zimbabwe's borders, so most businesses say they will not accept them. In addition the harvests have failed so food will have to be imported and cannot therefore be paid for with these new bond notes.

The SODA home for destitute

elderly near Harare is a Soroptimist project which illustrates the problems suffered by all their projects. Fundraising is near impossible with no cash available and the staff, who are on tiny wages anyway, have been put on half pay. Providing food for the residents has always been an ongoing problem for the club members but it has reached crisis point. Their aim is to help SODA develop income generating projects - market gardening, chicken rearing etc. - which will alleviate the food shortage too.

Which brings us to the good news. A friend of a club member has sent a gift of \$900 from Canada which means that the market gardening and

chicken rearing can be set up. In addition, because electricity charges are exorbitant, solar lamps and gas freezers can be purchased which in turn means that any food produced can be frozen and stored.

The tale of woe is repeated across every Soroptimist project in Zimbabwe, but it also shows how a cash injection would be used by our sister Soroptimists to make a massive difference. Of course at the moment, sterling is not buying many US\$ but we must not let that prevent us from redoubling our efforts to send what we can.

*Chris Bowran*

## Presidents' Reunion

### Chain Gang 1994/95

The group celebrated its 21st anniversary at Middlethorpe Hall, York in May. Past presidents with some friends attended.

Back row: Pat Hems, Rosalie Holroyd, Rachel Richardson, Jenny Loseby

Front row: Margaret Hellowell, Barbara Evamy, Eileen Senior, Isobel Templeton, Betty Robertshaw



## Still going strong after 15 years

### Chain Gang 2001/02

This year's meal was organised by Pat Shore and ten members met at The Bridge Wetherby for a lovely meal with fun, friendship and laughter.

Apologies were received from Carole le Duc, Irene Peaker, Julie Thompson, Lesley Berry & Kay Ennion. Next year's meal is on Sunday 2nd April 2017 at The Bridge and will be organised by Lynne Frisbee.

Back row: Jean Gee SI Keighley, Anthea Priestley SI Hallamshire, Jean Sykes SI Keighley, Pat Shore SI Harrogate & District, Pat Plevy SI Doncaster



Front Row: Margaret Jenkins SI Beverley, Di Ellis SI Aireborough,

Andrea Hunt SI Beverley, Lynne Frisbee SI Ilkley, Irene Senior SI Bingley.



## An Honorable Lady

Yorkshire President Liz Lyle presented Bingley Honorary Member Thelma de Leeuw with her 50 years long service certificate at the 67th Annual Charter Lunch at Hoyle Court in March 2016.

Thelma has been a significant member of Soroptimist International holding both the Federation and International President roles. During this time she has travelled extensively visiting clubs throughout the world whilst always firmly routed within the Bingley Club.

Bingley members were very privileged that she agreed to host the 67th celebration and presented her with an engraved glass vase commemorating this special occasion.

Other members were presented with long service certificates with their combined service



### SI Bingley

totalling 224 years. We congratulate and appreciate them all!

## Fantastic Float Success

SI Dewsbury & District were on cloud nine at the local Gawthorpe Maypole Event when at their first attempt, the float came second, one of the members came first in the individual fancy dress and four members came third in the group fancy dress. The float highlighted the work the club do from Story Sacks for Ravenshall Special School, Water Aid, Macmillan Coffee morning at Tentercroft Court, Kirklees Women's Refuge & the Wildflower Garden at Crow Nest Park. Thanks to all involved and well done to the Maypole Committee for all their hard work.



### SI Dewsbury & District

The Garden Party at June and Roy's on June 5th had great weather, food and atmosphere in contrast to last years which

was chilly to say the least. Over £900 was raised for local charities.

## Supporting Firefly

Doncaster Soroptimists were really pleased to present a cheque to the Firefly organization. The cheque was presented at the annual lunch which was attended by members and guests.

Firefly was selected as one of the two charities to support this year because of the invaluable service they provide to support cancer sufferers and recoverers attending their medical appointments.



### SI Doncaster

## Support for Roundabout

### SI Hallamshire

President Sue Smith was delighted to present a cheque for £1969.30 to Ruth Gage, Fundraising & Communications Manager, for Sheffield charity 'Roundabout'. Roundabout is a youth housing project in Sheffield which provides homeless young people with shelter, support and life skills. The charity helps 150 young people in Sheffield every day. Ruth was accompanied by Jade, who told her story and related her journey since coming to Roundabout.

The club raised the money through a series of events which included a B.B.Q, coffee morning



and Fashion Show, and has chosen to support Roundabout in the coming year.

## The Angels Share

### SI Harrogate & District

Soroptimists are always up for a challenge and when members, family and friends met up for our One Voice evening, it was certainly that.

The evening was expertly led by our musical directors Di Fleming and Jen Berry. We were coached through voice exercises and scales, singing such well known songs as Swing Low Sweet Chariot, to others less well known, By the end of the evening we sounded pretty impressive. It was a superb evening and great fun.

Our grateful thanks go to Di and Jen for giving up their evening and to St Peter's School for allowing us to use their premises.



L-R: President Sue, Di and Jen

The Club aims to raise £1500 for Our Angels which is President's Sue Williams' nominated charity for the year

Members and friends enjoyed a wonderful evening with Tanya Umpleby of Cooking Fantastic at The Cud Life in Killinghall. Helped by Laura Dudley, her very able assistant, Tanya entertained us with a marvellous demonstration of cooking showing us a wide

range of dishes from mini toad in the holes to tarte tatin, all cooked before our eyes in sixty minutes. We then were required to eat it all - the highlight of the evening. It was great fun and we raised £300 for Our Angels



L-R: Laura Dudley, Tanya Umpleby and President Sue Williams

Our Angels is a Harrogate based charity which supports families who have lost a baby either in pregnancy, at birth or shortly afterwards. They also fundraise to provide specialist bereavement training for health professionals including midwives and counselling for bereaved parents. Further information can be found on their Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/pages/-Our-Angels-Charity-and-Support-Group/171069199582613>

Harrogate and District Club celebrated the long service of two of its members at the AGM in April. Janet Haywood and Dorothy Taylor have both given tremendous service to the Club and the wider International Organisation. Dorothy joined the Harrogate Club 35 years ago. She is a past

President of the Club and continues to contribute to the running of the Club in various capacities. A well regarded speaker in her own right, Dorothy has entertained and informed the Club on a vast range of subjects.

Janet Haywood joined the Leeds Club 45 years ago serving as the Club President in 1981 and becoming the Yorkshire Region President in 1985 and a member of the Federation Executive Committee. A house move brought Janet to the Harrogate Club in 1988 where she has taken an active role the Club. Janet is also the author of the History of Soroptimist International published in 1995. This book charts the history Soroptimism from its beginnings in 1921.

Their knowledge and wisdom is well regarded in the Club, as they continue to contribute to the Club in achieving its objectives. As Janet said, 'After 45 years of Soroptimist membership, I would add that it has been a joy to serve the organisation and I hope that new members will find the work equally satisfying'.



IPP Sue Williams, Dorothy Taylor; Janet Haywood; President Pat Shore



## Invitation to follow the Blog

May Day was an early start to Membership Month when members had an information stall at the monthly Ilkley Food Fair. This was followed the following day by a tent at Ilkley Carnival. On both days there were displays, leaflets and names taken for a special speaker meeting at the end of the month, with the aim of recruiting new members. The photo shows Janet Munro, President Joyce Wilson and Margaret Cook of S I



Ilkley at the Carnival tent.

The inspirational paper back book written by Tim Berners - Lee ..... "How Bad are Bananas?" has got some of us at SI Ilkley blogging. Our blog hopes to record, research and share information about how we might reduce our carbon footprint by creating lower emissions. We found out the average lifestyle and activities of a person living in the UK is around 15 tonnes. Our aim is to reduce our personal lifestyles to 10 tonnes or even less. We are now encouraging you, our friends and our families to consider reducing

personal carbon footprints from day to day.

Here is a screen print of our blog. It contains tips, news items and ....? .... why not log on at [www.ourfuturefootprintblog.wordpress.com](http://www.ourfuturefootprintblog.wordpress.com) and follow us?

To read any of the articles or look through the 5 months of archives which contain links to TED talks as well as tips and ideas just tap twice on an item with your left cursor and the story will appear in full.

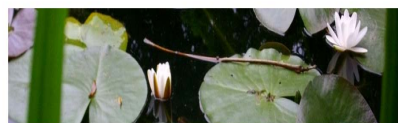
We have already had a number of visitors to the site.

If you would like to check your carbon footprint here is one of the many places where you can check how many tonnes of carbon you are consuming ..<http://footprint.worldagroforestrycentre.org/>



### OURFUTUREFOOTPRINT

Thinking for 10 tonnes less



[about](#) / [how bad are bananas?](#) / [links](#)

#### RECENT POSTS

- Portugal reaches clean energy milestone
- A bit more recycling
- National Recycling Week
- Halfway through Meat-Free May
- Taking a cold shower?



#### PORTUGAL REACHES CLEAN ENERGY MILESTONE

Portugal kept its lights on with renewable energy alone for four consecutive days last week in a clean energy milestone revealed by national energy network figures

#### RECENT COMMENTS

Stability on [WordPress](#) Leave a comment

Search

#### TIPS

- 10 tonnes less: trainee clothing carbon footprint calculator due
- Climate change coffee: why deforestation undermines ethical fairtrade
- Fairtrade learning fashion hemp clothing
- Hugh Humberly with @greenpeace: Leonardo di Caprio home and seasonal May: Reduce Meat

## Stories and Service rewarded

Thelma de Leeuw give a talk on her 'Travels in Soroptimism'. She regaled us with lots of anecdotes and 'inside stories' and even told us that despite travelling all over the globe in her various roles on behalf of S.I.G.B.I. she preferred to be in Antarctica rather than the hot countries. We had an 84th Anniversary cake made by one of our members, which we cut and had a glass of fizz. Thelma then did the honours of presenting the long service awards to the following Keighley members: Audrey Bell - 55 years, Jean



Southam - 45 years, Anne Ward - 40 years, Edith Sanderson - 35 years, Christine

Anderton - 35 years, Susan Bartlett - 25 years Arlene Woolard

SI Ilkley

SI Keighley

## Help for Homestart

### SI Richmond & Dales

SI Richmond & Dales' outgoing president Judith Clark reported on an incredibly successful year, including raising awareness of Domestic Abuse in the Dales, and also helping to achieve a Dementia Awareness group in Richmond. Judith passed the chain of office to Sue Young, who has another very busy year planned for the club. We will be helping support local families through Homestart Richmondshire, and also supporting IDAS (Independent Domestic Abuse Service) which provides outreach support and refuge facilities across York and North Yorkshire, as well as continuing to improve the lives of women and girls throughout the world. The quilt behind Judith and Sue has been made and donated by the sister of President Sue, and her friends. We are going to



raffle it at every opportunity, to raise funds for both charities this year. It is 6ft square, and absolutely beautiful. Pat has even stitched the 'dynamic S' into the border of the quilt.

President Sue Young, through her own love of horses, and her connection with Brookleigh Riding Centre (where Sue's own horse lives,) has arranged for our club to provide pony rides for the children of Homestart (the local charity the club is supporting this year).

Three children visited the stables during the half term, and were shown how to groom a pony before enjoying a ride.



The children had a wonderful time, and the club plans to offer this opportunity to other Homestart children in the future.

*Sue Eastham*

## Ton up Challenge

### SI Selby

As her last official duty, outgoing President Pat Griffiths of SI Selby, presented cheques to 5 local charities. Over £1300 was handed over to Dementia Forward, Selby District Vision, Hearing Dogs for the Deaf, IDAS and Peter Pan Nursery. The money had been raised over the year by the members of SI Selby at a variety of events including a lunches, suppers and a quiz.

Brayton teenager, Freya Copeland, was also presented with a certificate by President Pat in recognition of her charity fundraising in the local community.

"I have had an amazing year as President of SI Selby" said Pat "and to be able to give this money to these worthy charities has been the icing on the cake."



L-R: President Pat Griffiths, Chris Davies - IDAS, Anne Young and Karen Humphries - Selby District Vision, Melanie Godridge - Peter Pan Nursery, Yvonne Sidwell - Dementia Forward and Karen Teal - Hearing Dogs for the Deaf.

Members and friends of SI Selby launched their "100 Challenge" this week, kicking it off with a 5 mile or 2.5 mile walk starting from Birkin Fisheries Tea Room. The aim of the Challenge is



to get 100 women with family and friends to walk 100 miles and eat 100 slices of cake in 100 days – from 1st June to 7th September. The purpose is to raise at least £100 for Yorkshire Cancer Research. Organiser and SI Selby member, Judy Kent, said "We hope to get as many ladies involved as possible. Of course, the cake eating and mileage totals are collective – we don't expect each individual to eat 100 pieces of cake but some of our members are going to have a really good try! And, of course, Yorkshire Cancer Research is a very worthy cause and deserves our support."

If any Soroptimists from other Yorkshire Clubs would like to support the "SI Selby 100 Challenge" then they would be made very welcome. The next walk will take place on Saturday 16th July starting at 10.30am from the Court Yard Café, Womersley, near Pontefract.



## Cat Walk for Cavendish Cancer Care

### SI Sheffield



Four Sheffield members strutting their stuff at a fashion show held by SI Sheffield at the Pointing Dog, Ecclesall Road on Thursday 7th April.

Local boutique Lucidos in Sharrow Vale masterminded the show and the 60 or so ladies present enjoyed an evening of retail therapy following the cat walk display.

The evening raised over £1000 with the proceeds going to the President's charity

Cavendish Cancer Care - and Mike from the charity is pictured with the models who are wearing Cavendish t shirts.

The monies were raise via a series of seven fund raising events in the year with members and friends - including an abseil by the President, coffee mornings, a beauty fayre, bbq and a fashion show

The Lord Mayor of Sheffield together with the Chief Executive and staff from the Cavendish Centre in Sheffield - receiving the cheque for £6,400 from SI Sheffield.



Pictured are: The Lord Mayor; Sally, Immediate Past President; President Daphne, Ann and Wendy of SI Sheffield; Cavendish Members including the Chief Exec Chris, and Mike of the fund raising team.

The Cavendish Centre supports local people and their carers who are living with cancer through counselling and complementary therapies working alongside, but unfunded by, the NHS. Some 70% of their clients are women.

Anne Camm



## 66th Annual Lunch

As the close of President Betty Mendoza's year of Office, Skipton Soroptimists held their Annual Lunch -which marked their 66th Anniversary as a Club in Skipton - at the Coniston Hotel in April. The Speaker was Professor Irene D'Amico, from the Department of Physics, University of York, who spoke of Women in Science: Facts, Figures and Characters. Left to right: Professor Irene D'Amico, Mrs Pat Hainsworth (President 94 Club), Ms Liz Lyle (President of Soroptimist

### SI Skipton in Craven



International of Yorkshire), Ms Carol Brookfield (94 Club), and Mrs Betty Mendoza (President of

Soroptimist International of Skipton-in-Craven).

## Soroptimist International Yorkshire Region

### A Word from the Editor

Summer celebrations and a successful Yorkshire Conference along with many club reports provide a bumper reading feast.

Many thanks to all the roving reporters particularly Hilary Putman for providing the news.

Liz Hayes

## Diary Dates - 2016

### July

Mon 18 Regional Officers Meeting, Holiday Inn Ossett (Evening)

### September

Sat 24 RCM/AGM Leeds GSAL

### October

Sat 8 Regional Officers Meeting, Holiday Inn Ossett (Morning)

Sat 22 Development 'Time Out' workshop day

### November

10-12 SIGBI Conference, Malta

Sat 26 Combined RCM and Yorkshire Lunch at Holiday Inn Barnsley

**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - Sept 11 2016**

## Uplifting efforts

SI Wakefield held a 'Bring a bra' event at their business meeting on Thursday 9th June. The used bras were in support of the Purple Teardrop Campaign which supports victims of trafficking and is working with an American charity to help women and girls in Mozambique, Uganda and El Salvador to start businesses. The bras are used to sell and make money to buy more bras and thus build a business. SI Poole has been promoting this in the UK and has arranged with their local CVS to transport the bras to where they are needed, SI Wakefield's bras will join the campaign to help these women create economic opportunities for themselves.



## SI Wakefield

Members of SI Yorkshire and their partners are invited to continue our 80th Anniversary celebrations by joining us on the

### **NORTH YORKSHIRE MOORS RAILWAY**

**Saturday 10 September 2016**

The train leaves Pickering station at 12 noon, arriving in Whitby at 13.45

It leaves Whitby at 16.40, arriving back in Pickering at 18.20

(Car Parking is available at Pickering Station for £5 All Day)

A Soroptimist carriage has been reserved.

Tickets are limited to a maximum of 64, so "first come first served"

**Cost £21.45 per person**

To Book Contact: Jennie Capstick, 45 Orchard Rd, Malton, North Yorkshire YO17 7BH **before 13th August 2016**

Email: [jennicapstick@btinternet.com](mailto:jennicapstick@btinternet.com)

### 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: [ehayes@lineone.net](mailto:ehayes@lineone.net)