January 2018

I have never written a blog but I hope it will keep you up to date on my activities during my Presidential Year 2017-2018.

Firstly I would like to wish all Yorkshire Soroptimists, their families and friends a belated Happy New Year. I trust you have all enjoyed the Christmas and New Year festivities. The holiday period seemed to pass so quickly; this is usually a time for reflection and like everyone, I have been reflecting on my Presidential Year so far!

I received a wonderful welcome in both Cardiff, my memories of the Saturday evening will stay with me forever. As will the Regional Council Meeting and Yorkshire Lunch, so thank you for making these two occasions very special.

Following the Cardiff weekend and before Christmas I had a busy few weeks. I was a guest at SI Dewsbury and District’s Open Meeting where the speaker was Programme Director, Barbara Dixon. I also attended SI Skipton in Craven’s membership evening. Both meetings were well attended and I hope they are successful in recruiting new members.

My first formal event was chairing SI Yorkshire’s Anti Slavery Group Conference, **‘FAILING OUR CHILDREN? SHATTERING SECRETS; REBUILDING LIVES’.** It was a very good conference and it received some excellent feedback.

I had the pleasure of visiting two clubs for their Charter Lunches, the first was Braford’s 89th Lunch the weekend after Conference and the second was SI Hallamshire’s on 18th November. I was made very welcome and thoroughly enjoyed meeting members who do not, for various reasons, always manage to come along to Regional Council Meetings.

The final event before Christmas was SI Dewsbury’s Carol Service on December 17th where I read a lesson at the invitation of President Julie Thompson. It was a super occasion, I was very well looked after and spent time talking to members of the club whilst enjoying coffee and cake!

January has been spent planning for the International Women’s Day event on March 8th at Kala Sangam in Bradford and the Regional Council Meeting on 17th March. In addition, Charter Lunches and Dinners begin again after the winter break with SI Skipton in Craven’s on 25th February, SI Ilkley’s on 16th March and my own club SI Bingley’s on 18th March.

A very special occasion will be SI Sheffield’s 90th Dinner on 24th March; this is the first of the three clubs celebrating their 90 years of Soroptimism. Congratulations to you all!

I want to finish by inviting you to attend the SI Yorkshire’s International Women’s Day event at Kala Sangam, Bradford, on Thursday 8th March 2018. This has been organised in response to many members asking if were organising a Regional event this year. The theme of the day is ‘Inspirational Women; Power of a Second Chance.’ We have some excellent speakers and the day culminates in the performance of ‘Here Comes Trouble’. Margaret Cook is the registrar for the event and will be very happy to receive your booking forms and cheques made out to ‘SI Yorkshire’ so please do support this Regional event. Do come dressed if possible in purple, green or white and fly the flag for Soroptimist International and International Women’s Day!

In friendship, Chris

NB: Don’t forget to click on the drop down arrow in the left hand menu to see more blogs as they are added!