



Soroptimist International Yorkshire Region Newsletter



AUTUMN 2020



Yorkshire Day 2020



‘Not a Write Off’

SI Yorkshire had planned an afternoon event in July at Newby Hall, Ripon. Members were asked to attend with hats and headwear made from recycled materials, supporting the year’s theme, ‘Not a Write-Off!’.

With cancellation, it was decided to promote SI Yorkshire with fun and friendship, keeping the members connected #Soroptimistsconnect for Yorkshire Day on August 1st. Over 100 members from 16 clubs enjoyed being creative. Some members met in groups, meeting for the first time in many months.

Centre SI Yorkshire President Rita Leaman and some Past SI Yorkshire Presidents

Clockwise from top left: Jennie Levick, Lesley Berry, Val Jenkins, Chris Clark, Margaret Cook, Liz Lyle, Julie Thompson, Judith Alce, Angela Edwards & Pat Kilbane

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Members of **SI Beverley & District** grabbed a weather window for a socially distanced picnic on the Westwood to mark Yorkshire Day, and of course wore our re-cycled hats for Yorkshire President Rita's challenge. Our first face to face meeting since the start of lockdown was very enjoyable until we were gate crashed by some curious bullocks, definitely not potential new members! Soroptimists of a nervous disposition rapidly retreated behind the fence.

pictured L to R
 front row Margaret Jenkins, Berna Moody, Pat Kemp, Barbara Newton
 back row Trish Porter, President Myra LeVine, Liz Lyle
 pictures by Ali and Alan Porter.

If you want to get ahead...



SI Dewsbury got in on the act showing off their hats - socially distancing of course!

Presidents Faye & Jane, accompanied by members of **SI Richmond & Dales**, with their recycled hats to celebrate Yorkshire Day.

RICHMOND SHIRE MUSEUM



Ilkley Soroptimists also brought forward Yorkshire Day in mini garden parties across the town and took on President Rita's challenge by arriving in the fancy hats they had made from items designed originally for recycling bins. Members were amazed at the ingenuity of these hats fashioned at short notice from recycled items. If we had voted for the best impromptu creation the art deco hat top centre worn by Past President Loraine Powell made from an old atlas and stapled together would have been a clear winner," said President Jo Thornley top left of this collage,

At the table are Janet Munro and Margaret Cook raising their glasses to Soroptimists everywhere.



The Winner is...

The presentation of the Mary Hillary Award took place on 19th September. In the extraordinary moment that is 2020 it is reassuring that Programme Action is still thriving. This year clubs submitted 168 reports, helped 1074 beneficiaries and raised over £33,812.30. Considering that a third of the year was spent in lockdown, SI Yorkshire should be proud of its achievements. There were four clubs shortlisted. This year the RCM was virtual and so for the first time the Awards were showcased via zoom.

SI Ilkley presented their project The win win cookbook.

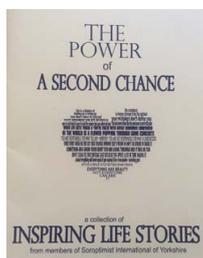
The club felt that they could have an influence on climate change by investigating what we eat and how it related to climate change. The idea of a recipe book developed which contained recipes for a more plant based diet and locally sourced or home grown food. The idea of the book was also to educate and empower those who were on low incomes and who had not tried home cooking. A grant of £400 was obtained from Well Wharfedale who promote a healthier lifestyle. The books were distributed to people on low incomes, those with young families and older groups.



Ilkley Members setting out/ using foraging to incorporate free ingredients in a more healthy lifestyle. L-R: Felicite White, Rosemary Hollins, Brenda Brown, Gill Wilkinson, Janet Munro, Joy Lynch.

The second submission was from SI Scarborough, The Power of Second Chance booklet.

The project was chosen to support the theme for the previous two Regional Presidential years. SI Scarborough compiled a booklet of twelve inspiring stories of education, empowerment and enablement They were collected from the club and Regional members. Club members read the stories and assembled the booklet. It was sold privately, at RCMs, SIGBI Conference 2019 and other events. Over 300 copies have been sold to date but current circumstances have put a temporary halt to sales. All profits will go to club charities.



Next to present was SI Skipton-in-Craven with "Bobby Buddies."

Club members and friends knitted the toy Bobby Buddies in police colours. They would be handed to youngsters who had experienced distressing incidents ranging from domestic violence to serious road traffic collisions. They were to be kept in police vehicles and at police stations and handed out when required. This project was chosen as domestic violence is a key issue addressed by Soroptimists.



Approximately 100 knitted Bobby Buddies were presented to the Chief Constable of North Yorkshire, Lisa Winward who was delighted. Pictured with two members of SI Skipton in Craven, Jocelyn Jones and Joanna Clarke with the Bobby Buddies.

The final presentation was SI Sheffield with Toilet Twinning – making Sheffield a Toilet Twinned city.



Pictured: the presentation of the Toilet Twinning certificate at the Sheffield Children's Hospital.

This charity aims to educate people in developing countries enabling them to build toilets in their villages. The project involved encouraging different establishments and members of the public to donate the necessary £60. This provided them with a certificate twinning their toilet with one in a developing country. The club achieved twinning 42 establishments across the city including City Hall. One school is now a recognised Toilet Twinned School. Sheffield is now the second toilet twinned city in England.

Although all those shortlisted were deserving, after deliberation the decision was unanimous that the Mary Hillary Award 2020 should go to SI Sheffield.

Mary Hillary Award 2020

Knitting for NICU

SI Beverley & District

SI Beverley & District member Trish Porter has long been knitting bonding squares and woolly hats for the babies in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Hull and East Yorkshire Women and Children's Hospital. Production naturally increased during lockdown. Picture shows just some of the output.



Fundraising and Friendship

SI Dewsbury & District

July 19th to 21st saw the Jo Cox Foundation annual Great Get Together.



As it wasn't possible to have a great get together we had several small get togethers in Batley, Dewsbury, Mirfield, Ossett and Thornhill.



Members made recycled hats for Yorkshire Day to support President Rita's appeal - see page 2.

On Tuesday August 18th President Elect Pat, President Elect Christine and Yorkshire President Elect Linda went to the Forget Me Not Children's Hospice. They met some of the staff and suitably masked (not suitably Dressed anymore) handed over 9 shakers, 2 ukuleles, a

drum kit and a slinky dog. This will be next year's charity for the club.



32 bras and 4 pairs of knickers will be winging their way to Smalls for All from 24th Aug.



A successful Zoom friendship meeting was held on Thursday September 3rd with friendship links in Whittier, USA, Kiel in Germany, Slupsk in Poland, Sharon in Staunton, Virginia and Preston, England. Over 20 members took part and enjoyed each club giving a short presentation about themselves and how their friendship link had been forged.

Zooming around the World

Harrogate and District Soroptimists were delighted and honoured to welcome Federation President Isobel Smith to their weekly Virtual Coffee morning on 10th June. Isobel spoke about the Federation activities including the Federation two-year project, 'Empowering Girls in Nepal'. Also, the appeal for a new eye-catching statue on the Federation plot in the National Arboretum. Club members provided Isobel an insight into our Club activities including action to support NHS and care staff during the acute phase of the COVID-19 pandemic and the local women's refuge. The Club continues to meet virtually, and a buddying system ensures we stay in contact with each other. Club President Sandra Frier said, 'It was a fantastic opportunity for our members to 'meet' President Isobel and to share with her how Harrogate & District Soroptimists have been supporting our local communities over the last few months.'



Club President Sandra Frier is 1st left top row. SIGBI President is 1st left fourth row

Change of Office - Finding A Different Way To Handover Presidency

Lockdown and social distancing has made it nigh on impossible for Harrogate and District President Sandra Frier to receive the chain of office in April. Being able to meet in gardens with up to six people meant that the handover of the presidential chain of office could finally take place at the end of June.

A broom handle came in very useful to ensure that social distancing was maintained, when Immediate Past Presidents Sylvia Purser and Sue



Williams were passing over the chain of office to President Sandra Frier.

Whilst some members have continued to work, others have worked together virtually to assist the community during these very difficult times. Making scrubs in conjunction with the Harrogate Scrubbers, making laundry bags from pillow cases for Ripon hospital and care home staff, providing pamper bags for NHS front line staff, knitting hearts for patients and carers with COVID, supporting the local Food Bank and providing bedding sets for our local Refuge.

Support for projects further afield has involved raising funds to support a school in Malawi to build a library and enable them to have computers.

Reaching out to Friendship links across the world

Harrogate and District Soroptimist's reached out to their Friendship Links across the world on 31st July. Club Friendship link co-ordinator Janet Morrow and all the Friendship link members and their Soroptimist Club counterparts in Arlon, Belgium; Middlesbrough, England; Hirakata Chuo, Japan; Blantyre, Malawi; Paisley, Scotland, Pretoria-Tshwane, South Africa & Willimantic, USA met together by Zoom. The meeting covered twelve different time zones. The Clubs also welcomed SIGBI Friendship Link Coordinator Bhaswati Biswas from SI India.

President Sandra Frier said, "Our Zoom meeting added a new dimension to the words Friendship Link, as technology took away the boundaries and enabled us to come together during these difficult times. Thank you to all our Friendship Links for sharing the amazing work they are doing and how they are keeping connected with their members'.



Photograph of the event: Zoom photo taken on 31st July of SI Harrogate and District Club Friendship Link members and their counterparts in Clubs in Belgium, England, Japan, Malawi, Scotland, South Africa and the United states as well as Federation Friendship Link Coordinator from India.

SI Harrogate & District

Local Activities

SI Ilkley

The club has continued to help both locally and internationally through the pandemic. In May Angela St John held a zoom craft session suggesting items members could start to make for sale at a craft and mince pie tea party held each year before Christmas in Bolton Abbey Church Hall.

Members have been lobbying their Keighley MP, Mr Robbie Moore, about the Domestic Abuse Bill which went through the house in May and more recently to press for the green paper on social care to be brought before Parliament under our Soroptimist strap line 'Get Care sorted'.

Some members got out their sewing machines to help the Ilkley scrubs team and then continued with masks. Last year the members from the Federation of clubs voted to raise money over a three year period for Chora Chori a charity aims to help, train and educate trafficked girls in Nepal.

Members of the Ilkley club have swung into action making and selling face masks, craft items and growing garden plants to raise the money to help set up the much needed workshops in Nepal. "We shall of course continue fundraising with members of the other Yorkshire clubs and across the world," explains Jo. Locally the club was asked to help in liaising with and supplying items to hospitals and care homes in the Ilkley area. The staff in the 9 care homes and the hospitals the Soroptimists have been working with asked for regular treats for staff and knitted items such as twiddle muffs to entertain residents with dementia and clothing, cribs and bedding for dolls for those other residents who staff find are able to benefit from this type of quiet activity. Other requests the club could fulfil were the provision of bunting for a fun day at a care home, regular supplies of biscuits and chocolates for staff at

others. Club members also liaised with the care homes to promote the many local musicians and choirs who could bring calm and reflection to the windows of homes by their music and singing. The Ilkley club has been busy as these very varied activities attest.

"We just managed to arrange and enjoy the Yorkshire Day mini garden parties before the second lockdown," explains President Jo Thornley. "It was great to see a few friends actually in person as we have been holding all our club meetings by zoom." "It was a fun evening though held as it was in five different gardens to ensure social distancing. The one in the photo (see page 2) was held at Janet Munro's home under an ingenious shelter but with cheese and wine no one noticed the drizzle. Sadly the latest local restrictions due to COVID 19 mean we shall have to resort to zooming once more for our planning and speaker evenings.

Events are Just the Job

SI Richmond & Dales

SI Richmond & Dales member, and expert beekeeper, Sandy Baxter has been delighted that her bees have defied 'lockdown' and continued to produce their wonderful honey! For every jar sold Sandy is very kindly donating £1 to Soroptimist charities in Zimbabwe, and she has also produced dozens of face masks for people to purchase.



Photo shows: President Faye Doorbar collecting the honey and masks from Sandy to distribute to members.

SI Richmond & Dales have now added to the £250 donated by the 'Sharing our Skills' students from Richmond School, to the money raised from the honey donations, and generosity of club members. This will now be sent by Western Union as US

Dollars to SI Harare, Zimbabwe, who are having a dreadful time - as reported last month. The dollars will then be used to help the various charities in and around Harare. The most urgent is the contribution to work on a borehole at Chikupo School - to enable the children to have clean water.

Members held an 'awareness raising' morning - "letting local people know what we are and what we do!" on an August Saturday morning in Richmond market place, together with Steve Biggs, Manager at 'Just the Job', with his Pole Lathe.



SI Richmond & Dales were delighted the rain stopped a Sunday afternoon, for the very successful Open Garden afternoon at Mr Yorke's Walled Garden, Cravengate. Thanks to all members who supplied

homemade cakes, which were enjoyed by the many visitors. Many thanks to Dennis and Marcia McLuckie (owners of the property), for their hard work in making the garden such a delight for visitors to view.

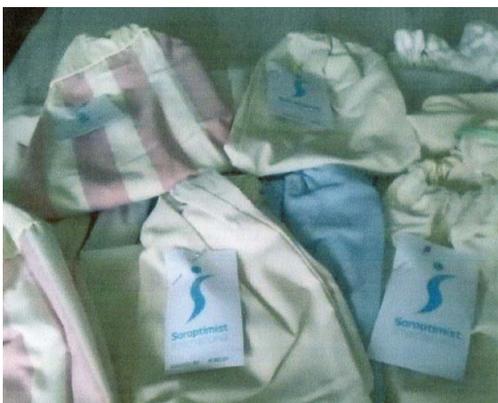


Proceeds of the event, £2,400.00 which were beyond expectations, will be presented to Just the Job, a very worthwhile local charity and social enterprise, supporting adults with a wide range of abilities, in practical work orientated therapeutic activities.

Presidents Jane Priestley and Faye Doorbar said how delighted they were to be out doing things in the community again, and of course, keeping to the Covid rules!

Meeting needs

Members of SI Selby are sewing scrub bags and face coverings for front line workers and others who need them. The scrub bags, made from pillowcases donated by members, have been given to NHS staff at York & District Hospital and to NHS staff working in the Selby Community. The face coverings, made in a range of materials and all washable, for men and women, were offered to SI Selby members in exchange for a donation into the Club's Charity account. Other face coverings will be given to Sewing Masks for Selby, so that they can pass them on to individuals or organisations requiring them.



Pat Griffiths, a member of Soroptimist International of Selby, said " some of our members are very clever with their needles and sewing machines. They enjoy making items that can be used by other members, who do not sew, or giving them to the community. We are pleased to be of service in this way".



The attached photographs show some of the scrub bags and the face coverings .

COMING OUT OF LOCKDOWN

Soroptimist International of Selby held their first post lockdown Business Meeting on Wednesday 2 September, at Haddlesey Church Community Hall. Thirteen members attended, observing the Government guidance and the Hall requirements, including sitting socially distanced and wearing face coverings.



Honorary Member, Judith Cooke, who chaired the Meeting, welcomed everyone back to Soroptimist International of Selby. She outlined the many things members had done during lockdown to keep in contact with each other, to give service in the local community, to support other people and to raise money for charity.

June Bryan, Club Treasurer, reported that since April, the start of the Club year, Soroptimist International had given £1412.05 to charity and local organisations. Beneficiaries included Sleepsafe Selby, Selby Clothing Bank and IDAS. Money was also given to St Wilfrid's Parish, Brayton, where the group usually met but is currently closed. June said all the money given to charity was raised by club members with sponsored walks, making face coverings, the sale of home made crafts and produce at afternoon teas, and from donations given by Club members, their family and friends. She thanked everybody for what they had done.

Judith added that members had also given food to the local Foodbanks, scrub bags to the Hospital and face coverings to Selby Clothing Bank.

She was delighted that Selby Soroptimists had done so much during lockdown and was now able to meet again. A programme of meetings, activities and social events had been arranged for the months until Christmas. Judith concluded by saying "we made a good start today with our first post lockdown Business Meeting. I am sure we can move forward as a Club and members of Soroptimist International."



SI Selby

Silent Auction/Auction of Promises

SI Skipton in Craven

In July SI Skipton in Craven held a variation on a Silent Auction/Auction of Promises. This, we decided, was something all members could get involved in, bidding by email or post – even if some promises might have to wait a while to be fulfilled. In total club members submitted 30 promises which included several Afternoon teas, and also cakes, crumbles, a lasagne, mulled wine and mince pies, a hand-knitted baby blanket, ceramic tiles, a hand-made necklace, a beaded scarf, two hampers, some home-grown fuchsia plants, hand-made greeting cards, music lessons and trips out. It turned out we are quite a talented lot! A grand total of £1,000 was raised for the Federation Project “Empowering Girls in Nepal”.



Caring for Carers

SI Wakefield

Members of SI Wakefield have been involved in projects for the NHS during the COVID 19 Pandemic, and have also worked for other Services.



They have made hearts, wash bags, face masks and Scrubs. They have volunteered to work



for the NHS, helped by shopping for older members and relatives and kept in touch with each other by Zoom meetings, emails and long chats on the phone. As the lockdown eased, under the leadership of President Linda, some members had a, social distancing, face to face meeting in the Rose Garden at a local Park, on a lovely sunny afternoon. Hopefully such a meeting will be organised again. In the meantime, members continue to hold Zoom meetings and keep in caring contact with each other.



A cheque for £650 was sent to Wakefield Young Carers so that when restrictions on meetings were lifted, they were in a financial position to organise outings for Young Carers. Maybe a theme park and picnic or the theatre.

This money had been collected by all members of SI Wakefield in Smartie tubes, which President Judith had handed to each member at the 2019 AGM.



She, at that meeting, asked them to bring their full Smartie tubes back to the 2020 AGM, which of course, due to the COVID19 Pandemic did not take place. However, many members had previously returned their full Smartie tubes throughout the year.

During these difficult times, this money will be of great help to this organisation, which supports Young Carers across the whole Wakefield District.

Soroptimist International Yorkshire Region

A Word from the Editor

Social distancing, support bubbles and masks have taken over our summer this year but members have carried on the good work of Covid caring efforts, and everyone entered into the spirit of Not a Write off with Hats off to Yorkshire.

Stay safe and take care

Liz Hayes

Diary Dates - 2020

October

Saturday 3rd Officers Meeting - am Holiday Inn, Ossett
Fri 30th -31st SIGBI Belfast Virtual Conference

November

Saturday 14th RCM

PLEASE CHECK ALL EVENT DETAILS DUE TO CURRENT RESTRICTIONS

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - November 1st 2020

Brolly Good Show

Torrential rain in June couldn't stop President Elect Linda's planning meeting.

Pictured L-R: Angela Edwards, Pat Kilbane, Judith Clark, Linda Davis and Janine Maws. Also present Pat Thornes taking the photo!



SI Yorkshire

Obituaries

Patricia Doidge

SI Harrogate and District



Tricia passed away on 22nd May 2020 after a long illness. Tricia joined S.I. Harrogate & District in 1994 and quickly embraced all aspects of Soroptimism. She was a leading light in arranging events such as the Soroptimist Christmas Lights Campaign, Shop Window Competition and the Christmas Market events that brought the name of Soroptimist International to

the awareness of the public of Harrogate and District. She also edited our club newsletter brilliantly from 2011. Tricia was a true Soroptimist. A valued member of both our club and organisation who epitomised the tenets of our International organisation, "Women inspiring action and transforming lives" – something she did to the end and may well continue to do. Tricia was awarded Honorary Membership of the Club. A well deserved tribute. She gave loyal and distinguished service to Soroptimist International for 24 years.

We will forever miss her.

Nancy Solomons

SI Huddersfield

Nancy Solomons died on 5th June, 2020, aged 86 years. She joined the Club on 22nd March, 1999 and was able to join their meetings until 6 months ago.

Barbara Newlove

SI Castleford, Normanton and District

Barbara who was a long serving member passed away on September 13th.

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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