



Soroptimist International Yorkshire Region Newsletter



SPRING 2019

Building Better Balance



On Saturday March 9th Soroptimists were invited to the International Women's Day Festival - 'Building Better Balance', by Aspirations & Achievement Group/Nyssa social media community, held at The Greenwood Centre, Ravensthorpe, Dewsbury. The speakers were

inspirational, one of which was Gillian Kirkman from None in Three Centre, Preventing Gender Based Violence, School of Human & Health Sciences, based at the University of Huddersfield, she was very impressed with the 'Love Me Loves Me Not' bookmarks. A power point

presentation was shown outlining the work of Soroptimist International, SIGBI, SI Yorkshire and SI Dewsbury. In Paula Sheriff's, (MP for Dewsbury) closing remarks, she congratulated the work done in Dewsbury & District. Presidents Pat & Linda, and Jackie from SI Dewsbury attended and also Pat Kilbane, SI Yorkshire President and Val Jenkins from SI Garforth.

Pat Thomes, SI Dewsbury



International Women's Day

- SI Yorkshire join in community event

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Time for a Cuppa

SI Dewsbury & District

As Dementia UK are celebrating 10 years of Time for a Cuppa, and Admiral Nurses are this year's chosen charity, SI Dewsbury are embarking on a number of events, the first one being a TIME FOR A CUPPA coffee morning at Jackie's. The cakes were delicious and the coffee morning raised over £400.00. Thank you Jackie and her team of willing helpers. The next event was going to be a 'Cocktail & Canapé' evening at Carol's, and then the final event a St Patrick's Day dinner at the home of Julie. In addition, Presidents Linda & Pat attended Maureen's coffee morning, Maureen is an



Admiral Nurse Ambassador, and Suzanne works for Dementia UK (pictured with

Presidents Linda & Pat). Due to all this eating and drinking, the diets are out of the window.

Game, Set & Meru

SI Harrogate & District

The Harrogate & District Soroptimists established the Gill Smith Memorial Trophy for Best Girl Improver at Harrogate Spa Tennis Club in memory of a former Honorary Soroptimist member. Gill was an enthusiastic tennis player following in her father's footsteps as a Cambridge blue who played at Wimbledon.

Harrogate & District Soroptimist Club Presidents, Elsie Johnston and Hilary Waddington presented this year's award to Beth Abbott, aged 12, who has been playing for the past four years with constant improvement and enthusiasm.



The photo shows President Elsie Johnston & Hilary Waddington with Beth and Coach Matt McTurk.

Members of Soroptimist International Of Harrogate & District held a Kenyan supper at The White Hart Hotel to celebrate raising over £3,500 in many different ways to support women and their families in Meru Kenya. From the initial garden at the Autumn Flower Show, to selling jams, handmade shawls and cards, an African supper with music, raffles of quilts and a Soroptimist handbag. The project has been inspiring and all members have enjoyed taking part.



The picture shows Soroptimist Penny Broadly, Joint President Hilary Waddington, Soroptimist Val Hills and President Elsie Johnston

Productive Partnerships

Toilet Twinning in Ilkley

Ilkley's Clarke Foley Centre is a very popular Community Hub and where Ilkley Soroptimists hold their meetings. Proceeds from a craft stall at the Bolton Abbey Mince Pie Fair has enabled the Centre's Ladies Toilets and a Disabled Toilet to be twinned, and therefore provide for the building of Latrines in Malawi, Pakistan and Uganda. Each toilet in the Ilkley Centre now has a framed certificate on the door which is illustrated with a photo of their twin, whilst the given geographical coordinates allow any user to see where the twinned toilet is in situ.

Toilet Twinning funds the work of international relief and development agency Tearfund. Donations are used to provide clean water, basic sanitation, and hygiene education.

Ilkley Soroptimists chose the three countries, all part of the SIGBI Federation because, Malawi is one of the least developed countries of the world and more than 62% of Malawians live below the poverty line. More than 40 million in



Pakistan do not have access to a toilet and in the mountainous south west Uganda, communities have to walk long distances to fetch dirty water that is contaminated by human and animal waste.

A successful and inspiring Partnership for Ilkley.

Ilkley Soroptimists and Ilkley Fairtrade joined up to celebrate International Women's Day. The monthly Real Food Fair provided a charity stall for Soroptimists and Fairtrade to promote the important role played by women in food production and their consequent empowerment through entrepreneurial and learning projects.



Soroptimists publicised the work of the Meru women and Fairtrade focused on cocoa workers in the Ivory Coast. The Coop in Ilkley provided a hamper of Fairtrade goods for the raffle which will benefit the two projects.

Other joint activities have included Margaret Cook promoting the Meru Jams at a Fairtrade afternoon tea and the launch of the Ilkley area-wide promotion to find the local Superwoman.

SI Ilkley

Charity in Action

We had a talk from Michaela Ryder about the development of the Sir Robert Ogden Macmillan Centre at the Friarage Hospital, Northallerton which opened in December 2018. Michaela stressed that the Centre had been set up with services tailored to local need, although some patients would still need to be treated at James Cook Hospital and children treated at Leeds. Her screen presentation showed pictures of the centre, a bright and airy building with curved corridors and a garden at its centre; all rooms have this garden view. The chemo lounge is open plan so patients can talk to one another while receiving treatment, there are treatment and consulting rooms, a quiet room and an information and support centre with computer access. 24 patients can be treated at any one time.

The Centre is open for anyone to drop in to use



the information and support centre.

This is our Presidents Charity of the Year.

Picture L-R: Cynthia Peacock President, Michaela Ryder Macmillan Cancer Support

SI Northallerton

Inspiring Visit to Kumi

SI Richmond & Dales



Michele Hardman shares her experience of A Month in Kumi

Last year I was privileged to spend a month in Kumi, Uganda with the extraordinary Elspeth Robinson, long-standing member of SI Darlington, founder and driving force behind Kumi Community Fund (KCF). The fund was set up by Elspeth after her first visit. Elspeth saw the scale of need and her life has never been the same since! The fund helps children with disabilities, supports groups and individuals by creating income generating projects (IGP), and that isn't the whole picture!

Myself, Elspeth and Lynne "Mrs Afripad" Williams- (we distributed 400 packs of Afripads in four weeks!) visited in October. It's impossible to give a full picture so here's a snapshot of one week.

Sports day at Adesso school, this little rural school achieved great things last year due to the support of KCF. Providing simple things like balls and kit has given

opportunities and confidence to these very deprived children. Adesso was the only school to represent Uganda in an East African Schools Federation tournament in Rwanda, coming third, no mean achievement as they could only afford (with help) to field one side. Imagine the feelings of these children, chosen to represent their country abroad. Many of their parents have never left the village! As a consequence several pupils were scouted and given scholarships to prestigious schools. We distributed Afripads and pants to girls who whooped with joy.



A visit to a women's collective to show how to make efficient fuel

saving stoves using earth from termite mounds, Lynne shared her 'rag rugging' expertise using scraps of fabric from their tailoring venture. Another possible IGP!



Elspeth supports an experienced social worker attached to Kumi hospital and while the women made stoves we held a 'clinic' where 25 children with disabilities were seen. Some needed the cost of transport to hospital, others a wheelchair or limb prosthesis. 'Wheels for the World' visit in February 2020 and Elspeth provides a list of likely recipients.

A visit following up an IGP from last year. A mother whose son has cerebral palsy had received a sewing machine. She was busy working when we arrived, her son close by in a specially made chair helping to improve core strength and increase chances of independent mobility.

Kumi, lots of sad stories, few fairy tale endings but some new beginnings. Kumi Community Fund is soon to be a registered charity.

Pictures:

Michele & Lynne delivering Afri Pads on a motorbike taxi.

Demonstration of making fuel saving stoves.

Lynne Williams sharing rag rugging skills.

Getting the Information Out there

SI Wakefield

Members recently held an Information Day at The Ridings Centre in Wakefield. We were able to show examples of what we do but yet again the Electronic Information Board was not working, so we were not able to show our Visual Displays. We were also celebrating the Hundredth Anniversary of Women getting the Vote and two of our Members wore period costumes.



Soroptimist International
Yorkshire Region

A Word from the Editor

A small but action packed newsletter to start 2019. Clubs have been busy with some involved in IWD.

Don't forget to send your club reports - SI Yorks events for the next edition.

Liz Hayes

Diary Dates - 2019

APRIL

Monday 29 Regional Officers Meeting - evening meeting 6.30pm

JUNE

Saturday 22 RCM - Askham Grange Prison

Saturday 29 Yorkshire Conference – Elvington Air Museum

JULY

Monday 1 Regional Officers Meeting - evening meeting 6.30pm

Saturday 7 UKPAC Study Day in Belfast

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 28 RCM/AGM - St Francis Xavier School, Richmond

OCTOBER

Saturday 5 Regional Officers Meeting - morning meeting 9.30

Thurs 24 - Sat 26 SIGBI Conference Bournemouth

NOVEMBER

Saturday 23 RCM & Yorkshire Lunch, The Fairfield Manor Hotel York

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - June 9th 2019

Obituaries

Joan Cartmill

SI Garforth Elmet

Doctor Dorothy Joan Cartmill died on the 3rd December, 2018 aged 93 years. Joan had been in the club since 1990. Joan came over from Northern Ireland in the late 50s and worked at Pontefract Hospital, before becoming a GP in Allerton Bywater where she stayed for the rest of her career. Joan did carry on for a short time after retirement at the practice as a locum. Joan had been a President of Garforth Elmet and an honorary member of the club. Joan will be sadly missed by us all.

Agnes Rearden

24.4.1914 – 12.1.2019

SI Huddersfield



Agnes joined Soroptimism in 1954 at SI Chorley where she served as President. She joined SI Huddersfield in 1982

becoming one of our first co Chairmen in 1996. The Club gave her Honorary Membership in 2004.

In 1956, her belief in human rights and women's equality led her to join the Women Citizens Organisation. She became National President in 1960.

As President, Agnes became an Honorary member of the Fawcett Society and of the Josephine Butler Society which works to prevent exploitation of prostitutes. Her work against Slavery and Prostitution never stopped. Aged 95, holidaying in Sydney, she visited local brothels to talk to the working girls.

Among many other highlights, she was a founder member of the Equal Opportunities Commission and invited to the Board of the International Alliance of Women, working with the UN.

Over 60 years a Soroptimist, our friend, Agnes, is irreplaceable.

Eileen Morgan

Past SI Yorkshire President

SI Aireborough

Eileen Morgan died on February 4th 2019. She was a member of SI Aireborough until the club closed in April 2016. She was Club President 1981/82 and Past Yorkshire President 1988/89.

Jean Myers

SI Skipton in Craven

Jean died peacefully at home on 16 February aged 90 after a long illness which she faced with great courage. A committed Soroptimist for nearly 50 years she was a very active member undertaking a number of roles including Secretary and President in 1981. She was very active in the community as a County Commissioner for the Girl Guiding Association for many years, Secretary of the Mother Teresa Charity and a governor of Skipton Girls High School.

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