



Soroptimist International Yorkshire Region Newsletter



SUMMER 2019

Poster Girls

SI Yorkshire Past Presidents go to Bridlington.

You might have been surprised to see several Past Yorkshire Presidents arriving in Bridlington on 30 April for a few days of conversation, cultural activities and good food and drink. Those present throughout the 2 days were Thelma de Leeuw, Margaret Cook, Judith Alce, Chris Clark, Barbara Evamy, Sylvia Wilson and I. We were joined by Jenny Heppenstall and Liz Lyle during the visit, and Pat Kilbane, our current President, was with us throughout.



Soroptimism, working together to make a difference to the lives of women and girls.

All the members of 158 Squadron who served in the War were lost – 851 men and 1 woman.

It was a very moving and interesting experience, never to be forgotten.

We then spent a wonderful time at Burton Agnes Hall, touring the house and grounds and enjoying the sunshine. On our way back to Bridlington we visited the writer and scholar, Winifred Holtby's grave at Rudston, and studied the Monolith there which allegedly has a fossilised dinosaurs foot print

on it!! The Monolith dates back to the Early Bronze Age and is the tallest standing stone in the UK.

More delicious food and fascinating conversation followed! And on Thursday morning it was sadly time to go home again, but not before we discussed where we might go on another of these reunions.

Angela Edwards
Past President of Yorkshire
SI Scarborough

Congratulations!

Top picture won the SIGBI News Briefing, May Photo of the Month



We began our exploration with a walk along the seafront and located the statue of the 'Gansey Girl'. This depicts a young woman knitting a 'gansey', the traditional jumper worn by fishermen. The statue honours the fishing families of the town. There then followed a lot of conversation and an excellent meal at Raffles restaurant in Bridlington Old Town.

On Wednesday we began with a visit to the 158 Squadron Memorial at Lissett, East Yorkshire. The Memorial depicts 7 figures, walking towards the onlooker. It is an image of a WWII Bomber crew, designed by artist Peter Naylor. The Squadron motto 'Strength in Unity' seems to represent the objectives of



SIY Away Days

- Fun and friendship at the coast

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The Gang Goes Green

2007 Chain Gang

The 2007 Chain gang met on the 12th May at The Bridge Inn Walshford.

All members dressed in green to highlight mental health awareness week.

L-R: Andrea Hunt, Pat Shore, Sue Mendoza, Sue Fox, Chris Clark, Maureen Styring, Loraine Powell and Liz Lyle



Grand Days Out

SI Beverley & District

An afternoon at the cinema

Twelve members of SI Beverley and District met at the Spa Bridlington to 'go to the pictures' and to enjoy afternoon tea.

The film was 'To Have and Have Not' starring Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall!! What a trip down memory lane, or even before living memory for some of us!!

They don't write films like this anymore - wonderful!

Tea was taken in the Spa Cafe, sitting in the huge bay window and watching the boats go in and out of the harbour and the tide creeping over the beach.

What a way to spend an afternoon!!!

Spring Fashion Show

Once again the Fashion Show organised by Liz Hallett was a roaring success. Clothes from



four local ladies wear outlets were paraded for our attention. There were outfits for day and night, casual and formal, weddings, proms and the races. Something for everyone. The models in all shapes and sizes and ages showed us how to dress to make an impression. Members of SI Beverley and District

were among those modelling the outfits, and ensuring a welcome for over one hundred ladies and gentlemen.

Our Charity this year is Sight Support (formerly RNIB) and a magnificent donation of over £1000 was raised for this deserving organisation.

Well done to all involved - a wonderful result.

Celebrating 70 years of Service

SI Bingley was chartered on the 29th April 1949. In April 2019 the club celebrated 70 years of Programme Action and service which has benefited the lives of women and girls and their communities locally, nationally and internationally. This is a marvellous achievement.

On Saturday April 27th 2019 we held a celebratory dinner at Bingley St Ives Golf Club with 102 members and guests. Sue Williams, Federation President and Pat Kilbane, Yorkshire Regional President also joined us and praised the work in which we are involved. We were entertained by Lesley Berry of SI Selby who produced a witty monologue about how SI Bingley has developed over the years, which also focused on the amusing exploits of some of its members!



L-R: Thelma de Leeuw, Judith Golton, Lesley Bateman, Chris Clark, Sylvia Wilson

Members of SI Bingley were delighted to present £1150 to Federation President Sue Williams for the Diamond Education Grant at their 70th

Celebration evening on April 27th 2019, almost exactly 70 years after the Club was first chartered in the town. This will provide an opportunity for women and girls to access STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) projects to further their education and job opportunities, linking with our current two year Regional theme of 'The Power of the Second Chance' which is especially relevant to disadvantaged women and girls.



The money was raised through sponsoring SI Bingley member, Margaret Bromley - presenting the cheque above, who, with her husband John cycled 70 miles over two days along local canals and waterways and also from donations from two link Friendship Clubs in Lecco, Italy and Canterbury, England.

We also marked the occasion by mounting a display locally in the Santander Bank on Bingley Main Street during Easter week and through a variety of activities led by club members.

Chris Clark

SI Bingley

Fun, Friendship and Fund Raising Events



Twelve Dewsbury Soroptimists, 3 friends and 1 WI member ventured to Edinburgh for three nights. We laughed, ate and drank (some more than others). Some toured the Royal Yacht Britannia (pictured above) and the Botanical Gardens, others the open top bus and The Real Mary King's Close. The culture vultures visited the art galleries and some experienced a certain amount of retail therapy. The weather was kind and an entertaining weekend was had by all.

The perfect finale to the year for outgoing Presidents Linda and Pat.

The first event of President Kathleen's year was the Annual Garden party, once again hosted by Carol and Glenn. Many thanks to them for the use of their wonderful garden. Lots of food, fun & friendship, and just a little rain, and what would we have done without Barry the raffle caller? £1,000 raised for Alzheimer's Society and the Carer's Trust



President Kathleen thanks host Carol (on right).

SI Dewsbury & District

Mindful Support

SI Garforth Elmet

SI Garforth Elmet has been supporting Inkwel Arts which creates space for people to develop positive mental health. Based in Chapel Allerton in Leeds Inkwel is an outlet of the charity Mind.

The Inkwel centre encourages participation in a wide variety of crafts, music and dance aiming to help people with mental health issues. There are support groups and drop in groups for developing mindfulness and meditation skills. The general public are encouraged to use the cafe and to attend the cinema and jazz events.



SI Garforth Elmet learned about Inkwel from a guest speaker and visited the centre to see the various activities in progress. A donation of £700 has been made to support the centre and provide for craft

materials.

This project fits in very well to the current SIGBI Federation President, Sue Williams, focus of "Think On It"

Support for Near and Far

SI Harrogate & District

The Red Box Project is a Nationwide Campaign that ensures local schools are equipped with free sanitary wear for young girls to access, thereby ensuring no one misses out on their education because of their monthly period. The Harrogate Project is co-ordinated by Jay Kelly and members of Soroptimist International of Harrogate & District are supporting her by running the scheme across all local primary schools.



L-R: Pat Shore, Jackie Snape, President Elsie Johnston, Sue Williams and Jay Kelly

Girls are starting their periods at a much earlier age than they used to and can be embarrassed and upset if a period starts whilst at school or worse they cannot afford sanitary protection.

Jay quotes stories of real period poverty across the area and tales of embarrassment at lack of provision in schools.

Jackie Snape Chief Executive of Yorkshire Disability Action has

provided a free storage room and staff help by unpacking and storing donated sanitary wear. Jackie says it is good for larger charities to support smaller local organisations. Not only have they supported but in doing so it has raised awareness amongst learners who are all younger disabled people, as to what is a normal monthly occurrence for ladies.

The spring statement brought excellent news that sanitary protection will be provided in all secondary schools as a result of the constant lobbying by Red Box but to date primary schools have not been included so the campaign goes on.



SI Harrogate and District were proud to recognise the long service by four members to the organisation totalling 155 years!

Janet Hutton had achieved 40 years service, Nicola Harding, Hilary Waddington and Judith Webb 30 years, and Liz Stickney 25 years.

Yorkshire President Pat

Kilbane presented long service certificates to each member, who all continue in active roles within the club.

SI Harrogate & District are working on a new project with their friendship link SI Blantyre (Malawi) to support a local school building a new library with the club supplying computers and books. With 15 months to raise £2000 the club has challenged members to double their money with each member being given £10.

The project was launched with a Boom Bang A Bang Eurovision party held by Val Hills Andrea Trimmer and Gillian Trotter. The evening was full of great fun with guests dressed to represent their country in the sweepstake, a Smorgasbord of European food and Eurovision games.

Over £130 was raised towards the project.



Inspiring Women

The approach of International Women's Day 2019 prompted SI Ilkley to get together with Ilkley Fairtrade Group to highlight women's achievements- particularly women living in the local community. The two groups had worked together previously successfully celebrating IWD a few years ago. (Remember a photograph including a banana on a zebra crossing?)

We agreed that we know of so many inspiring women all over the world in both our organisations who are celebrated for their achievements. This time we would let our community know the extent of work done by many women locally.

We created posters and leaflets which were headed 'Wanted- local Superwoman' and had a series of articles in the local paper. People were encouraged to nominate those women they knew who worked tirelessly on projects but who were largely uncelebrated. We began in February with a community stall at the local Real Food Fair and had a celebratory evening in early April. During this period we promoted it on the local 'Ilkley Chat', Facebook and Twitter as well as word of mouth.

We ended with 19 women nominated- 3 more than once! We had appointed an independent panel of 3 to decide on a winner but all were to receive certificates. The judges found the task a privilege and the quality of the nominees made it

difficult to select one person. Karen Goodman was given that honour receiving a huge hamper of Fair Trade goods as well as a special certificate. Having 3 adopted children with special needs she is celebrated for her role in supporting families with special needs in local groups having helped to found 2 of them.



The award evening was a joyful occasion where most of the nominees and nominators attended. The judges gave their observations and reasons for their decision, Soroptimism and Fair Trade were promoted and the certificates awarded by the Ilkley Town Mayor. Many photographs were taken, wine and canapés enjoyed and much conversation ensued!

A further article was in the local press and the strong feeling was that it should become a regular event in Ilkley! A very special evening!

Margaret Cook

SI Ilkley

Involving Young Girls

AND THEN THERE WERE 7

It's that time of the year again when SI Richmond & Dales welcome students from Richmond School to take part in our SOS (sharing our skills) project. We usually take 2 girls from year 12 to join us at 3 club, and 2 executive meetings to learn how a club functions. However, we had 7 eager students wanting to join us, so instead of choosing we invited all 7.



They have hit the ground running with their enthusiasm for supporting the club's projects and have already drawn up plans to raise money for Toilet Twinning in their school and supporting the local food bank with products to combat

Period Poverty. They are a confident, friendly, articulate and enthusiastic group of students who bring a breath of fresh air to the club. We should all try this method and spread the word of Soroptimism to the younger generation.

Richmond & Dale Soroptimists celebrated International Women's Day by organising a talk entitled Step by Step by Ghazala Ahmad-Mear. A full audience listened to a truly inspiring woman talking about her walk in 2018 to the South Pole on an expedition using only renewable energy. Ghazala is married to the explorer Roger Mear who in 1986, with Robert Swan and Gareth Wood, made the first unsupported walk to the South Pole with the expedition 'In the footsteps of Scott'. Ghazala, who was a NHS Surgeon, shared her training programme with us and explained that Antarctica - the last great wilderness - is under threat from global warming. Glaciers are retreating and ice shelves the size of France are breaking up. By using only renewable energy on her walk, her strong message to us is, if we can survive the coldest, driest and most inhospitable place on Earth, then step by step we can make similar changes to our everyday lives and have a positive effect on climate change.

Step-by-step.scot

SI Richmond & Dales

Safe House Awareness

SI Scarborough

EVA Women's Aid is an award-winning Charity providing specialist support for victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence. Based in Redcar, EVA's services include four Safe House properties for women fleeing abuse. As an independent Charity with 32 years experience, EVA relies entirely on grant funding, donations and fundraising. CEO Richinda Taylor said; 'We are very grateful that SI Scarborough supports us, not only with donations but by collecting toiletries and other items that we give to our residents'



Richinda Taylor, Rita Leaman, Janet Green and Angela Edwards at EVA Women's Aid new Safe House

Women arriving in one of their Safe Houses are given a pack containing toiletries, underwear and pyjamas, as often they arrive without any possessions. SI Scarborough have held 'sewing evenings' where drawstring bags are made for these items, which the women use after as laundry bags.

Domestic abuse and sexual violence are not easy issues to discuss. Richinda added; 'Our shop-fronted offices in Redcar's High Street represent a different approach for this sector – we bring it into public view, showing it cannot be ignored. Ignoring abuse allows it to perpetuate'

Every week, two women are killed by a current or former partner, and there are more than 1.3 million female victims each year in the UK. Domestic abuse amounts to 16% of all violent crime and has more repeat victims than any other crime-it is clear this is a huge issue to be addressed. (ONS/CSEW).

Women victims are by far the greater majority but we know that reported figures are only half the story. In 2018, EVA

worked with 923 women, with numbers increasing yearly. Over half of the women EVA works with choose not to access the Criminal Justice System—it's their choice, and EVA supports them in whatever decisions they make. Richinda said; 'we have received more and more referrals for women with mental health issues. We respond by providing new Safe House accommodation for women fleeing abuse who also have mental health problem such as PTSD, anxiety or depression – which may be a result of the trauma they have experienced – and employing specialist Mental Health Support Workers. Support is totally needs-led – women can access EVA for as long as they need to, until they feel empowered to live independent lives'

In 2015, EVA opened the UK's first (and only) Safe House for older women as part of their award-winning '45+ Project'. This new house is the organisations fourth in the Redcar area.

Richinda Taylor
CEO EVA Women's Aid

Celebrating Milestones

SI Wakefield

SI Wakefield were pleased to have the company of Family and Friends and the Yorkshire President to help us celebrate our 85th Anniversary. We can look back with pride at what we have achieved and look forward to helping more Women and Children from all parts of the World to improve their lives.



On Thursday the 13th of June members hosted a birthday party for their Honorary member and four times club President, Cynthia Speeden, who on the 1st of June celebrated her 90th Birthday. Yorkshire President Pat attended as did past members of S I Wakefield and a number of guests from S I Dewsbury. Altogether over 45 soroptimists attended who all enjoyed the music, the buffet supper and presentation of flowers and cards to Cynthia. She also gave a very lovely



L-R: President SI Dewbury Kathleen Thornton, President SI Yorkshire Pat Kilbane, Cynthia Speeden & SI Wakefield President Judith Alce

speech in which she said she had enjoyed all her years as a Soroptimist and hoped all present would enjoy their time as much as she had.

Soroptimist International
Yorkshire Region

A Word from the Editor

Many thanks to the Clubs who have shared recent events with us.

We look forward to reports of the forthcoming Yorkshire Events from the Communications Team in the next issue

Liz Hayes

Diary Dates - 2019

JUNE

Saturday 29 Yorkshire Conference – Elvington Air Museum

JULY

Monday 1 Regional Officers Meeting - evening meeting 6.30pm

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 - September 15th 2019

Obituaries

**Dena Hebditch MBE JP
SI Scarborough**

Dena was born in Scarborough in April 1922. She qualified as a teacher and eventually became Headmistress at two schools in Scarborough. She retired in 1980 having set up a nursery unit at the school and the first ever autistic unit in a mainstream school.

She was appointed as a Magistrate in 1967, became a Soroptimist in 1967, and in 1970 was awarded an MBE for services to education.

Dena travelled widely, loved sport and loved living by the sea.

She was a wise, much respected, humorous and well-informed Soroptimist, who played an active role in the club until a few weeks before she died. We miss her invaluable contributions to our meetings.

**Lesley Anne Pears
SI Northallerton**

Lesley Anne Pears was born 28th September 1960 and sadly died 23rd March 2019 following a heroic battle against breast cancer. Lesley joined Northallerton knowing she had terminal breast cancer a year ago and was inaugurated into our club at our Christmas meeting, December 2018. She was a friendly, generous minded person and her lively and energetic personality was one her greatest assets which enhanced the spirit of the club.

Lesley had spent most of her married life supporting her husband Mel as an army wife and their two beautiful daughters Natalie and Stephanie. Lesley and Mel travelled to many countries and during that time Lesley was a huge support for the regiment's wives and their families. Where ever Lesley and Mel set up home Lesley very quickly became actively involved in the

community, supporting local charities and more importantly those in most need.

Latterly when Lesley settled in Northallerton she became a teaching assistant working with children in local schools, which was another passion of hers. The needs of women and children were never far from her heart which is why she decided to join SI Northallerton.

Lesley will be sadly missed as a club member, but also as a loving and caring neighbour, active member of the community and not least of all a friend.

**Jean Bland
SI Bradford**

Jean Bland a long serving member of SI Bradford has died. The funeral took place at Nab Wood Crematorium at 11.30 am on the 4th of June

**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