



# Soroptimist International Yorkshire Region Newsletter



WINTER 2019

## Officers 2019-20



Immediate Past President  
Pat Kilbane



President  
Rita Leaman



President Elect  
Linda Davis



Vice President  
Lindsay Green



Secretary  
Judith Clark



Treasurer  
Susan Mendoza



Development Officer  
Sam Lawson



Minute Secretary  
VACANT



Communications Joint Officers  
VACANT

Liz Lyle



Programme Action Joint Chairs  
Lindsay Green

Lindsay Green



Susie Westwood



Membership Officer  
Jane Glendinning



Benevolent Fund Rep  
Hilary Putman



Federation Councillor  
Angela Edwards

### Regional Council

- The new team line up for the camera.

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## Enjoying Tea, Talk and Walk

### Central East Cluster Group

Members of the Central East Cluster Group of Clubs (Sls Wakefield, Castleford & Normanton, Garforth Elmet, Leeds and Selby) met recently at the home of Jackie Grey (S I Selby) to take part in their 5th Cluster Group walk of the year, around the historical village of Cawood. Prior to the meeting members discussed the money remaining in the Cluster Group Fund. This fund had been set up by the clubs to facilitate the many prestigious (Peace) events they held for a number of years at the Royal Armouries in Leeds. After tea, cake and a discussion, members present agreed that the money should be donated to SIYAMS, to help with their excellent work. A photograph was taken of the members present, prior to a most interesting walk around Cawood. All members of the five clubs are encouraged to join the Cluster Group Walks and many walks, around the Cluster Groups area have been enjoyed in recent years.



Back L-R: Lindsay Green, Val Jenkins, Jane Richardson

Front L-R: Hilary Putman, Judith Alce, Jackie Grey and Rita Pearson

## Raising Awareness

### Anti -Slavery Day

Members of several clubs from SI Yorkshire spent Anti-Slavery Day raising awareness of Modern Day Slavery at various venues.



Displays were set up in Leeds Market, St John's Shopping Centre, Leeds, and the Brunswick Shopping Centre, Scarborough and leaflets about recognising signs of slavery, and Loves Me, Loves Me Not bookmarks were given out to



the public. Many people were unaware that slavery takes place in the UK, showing how vital it is to raise awareness.

IPP Pat Kilbane



## Young Carers 'Think on it'



### SI Harrogate & District

When the SIGBI President Sue Williams chose the theme of 'Think on It', focusing on mental health and well being, the Harrogate & District Soroptimists approached the Carers' Resource to see whether the Young Carers would be interested in going to a Taekwondo class as an opportunity to participate in an activity which is fun and very different from their everyday lives.

Kambiz Ali, who runs the K R Ali Taekwondo martial arts Academy in Harrogate, very kindly offered to run two sessions for the young carers. He is very enthusiastic for people of all ages to see for themselves what Taekwondo can offer.

Taekwondo enables you to make new friends, build confidence, work in a team supporting each other, obtain a new skill and feel more

confident about personal safety.

On an October evening, a group of young carers with Sarah Beard, Young Carer Worker and Sandra Frier, President Elect, Harrogate & District Soroptimist, with fellow member and immediate past president Hilary Waddington, had just that opportunity.

*Submitted by Andrea Trimmer  
3rd Nov*

## Literary Launch

It was the launch of the 5th biennial SI Leeds Literary Prize for unpublished fiction by BAME women writers at the Ilkley Literary Festival in October. The Prize now has a number of alumni enjoying success - indeed, Mahsuda Snaith, our 2014 winner, has recently had her second novel *How to Find Home* featured on Radio 4's book at bedtime and our 2016 runner up Winnie M Li won The Guardian's Not the Booker Prize in 2017 for *Dark Chapter*.

Long-standing Prize Patron and supporter, writer Bernadine Evaristo, has just jointly won the 2019 Booker Prize with Margaret Atwood, and the whole Prize team is delighted at its Patron's much deserved success for *Girl, Woman, Other*.

We were also joined at the launch by Yvonne Singh, our 2018 runner up with her novel *One Man's Revolution*, who has consented to be one of our judges for 2020.

Dr Emily Zobel Marshall, Course Director at the School of Cultural and Studies & Humanities at Leeds Beckett University, interviewed Northern Writers Award winner Yvonne Battle-Felton, who read movingly from her book *Remembered*.

Entries for the 2020 prize will be accepted from



### SI Leeds

January 1st to April 30th 2020, so please help to spread the word.

[hashtag#BAMEwomenwritershashtag#SIleeds](https://lnkd.in/eMz2R8V) for more info <https://lnkd.in/eMz2R8V>

At the same event President Jennie Gillham was delighted to present the 3rd annual MairPinnell, MBE Bequest of £100 to Sylvia Roberts of SI Ilkley, as the newest Yorkshire soroptimist attending conference for the First time.

*Terry King*

## Supreme Experience

### SI Richmond & Dales

Baroness Hale, President of the UK Supreme Court addressed over 100 Soroptimists from Yorkshire and Northern Regions at the Holiday Inn, Scotch Corner. She spoke about her life and work at the Supreme Court, describing a number of cases where the judgements directly impacted on the lives of women and children and looking forward to cases of national importance likely to come before the court. Lady Hale is Patron of SI Richmond and Dales and the club presented her with a donation to her preferred charity and a handbag sized notepad inscribed 'Never



Underestimate the Power of a Woman'.

L-R: Judith Clarke, Baroness Hale and Sue Young

## Well Rewarded Efforts

### SI Wakefield

Due to the hard work of both S I Wakefield's Press Officer Pauline Alger, and member Lisette Gill, Charlie Bullough, a Reporter with the Yorkshire Evening Post and the Wakefield Express, agreed that an article about S I Wakefield's 85th Charter Year would be of interest to his readers.

They then 'volunteered' President Judith Alce to give a 45 minute telephone interview with Charlie, who also requested photographs for the article. So Judith, Pauline and Lisette sorted photographs and emailed him twelve of S I Wakefield's Programme Action events. Charlie then chose four and sent the article to Judith to proof read. After making a number of small alterations and amendments, she emailed the article back to Charlie.

Taking note of Judith's amendments, he then emailed the finished article back to Judith for her final approval and it was sent back to Charlie two hours before his deadline of noon on that day.

The full page spread article appeared in the Yorkshire Evening Post on the 25th September and the following day in the Wakefield Express.

As a result of the article a gentleman, recently widowed, contacted the Club's secretary and asked if the club could help him with disposing of his late wife's bras. She told him yes and the bras have been collected and will be recycled at the November RCM.

### Power of the Second Chance...

In 2018 SI Wakefield agreed to support Past Presidents Chris and Pat's '2-year project Power of the Second Chance, so sought women to receive funding from the bursary fund. A volunteer researcher for Forgotten Women of Wakefield, Helga spoke at a meeting during 2018. Following formal application, the monies were allocated to her to complete a short training

course Level 2 Peer to Peer Facilitating. At the last meeting Helga gave a short presentation, why she had applied for the course, what she hoped to achieve and what the challenges were. Helga shared that she has and still does have mental health issues and a particular phobia regarding speaking in front of groups and having her photograph taken! Since completing the course, she has spoken for 2 hrs to a group of 80 and agreed to having her photograph taken. Helga said the best thing about receiving the funding to support the course was "knowing that SI members had faith in her to achieve, was an amazing feeling".



## Soroptimist International Yorkshire Region

### A Word from the Editor

An eventful time since the last newsletter with Conference in Bournemouth and the Change of Insignia. Best wishes to incoming President Rita and congratulations on a very successful year to IPP Pat.

SI Yorkshire was very shocked and saddened at the recent news about Andrea Trimmer, our thoughts are with SI Harrogate's members and Andrea's family.

Liz Hayes

## Diary Dates - 2020

### January

Saturday 11th Regional Officers Meeting- morning meeting 9.30 am

### March

Saturday 14th RCM Holiday Inn Barnsley

### April

Monday 27th Evening Officers Meeting

### May

Friday 15th Yorkshire Women Volunteer Awards - Leeds

### June

Saturday 20th RCM Askham Grange Prison

### July

Monday 6th Evening Officers Meeting

Wed 15th 'A Grand Afternoon Out' - Newby Hall

### September

TBC RCM

### October

Saturday 3rd Officers Meeting - am

Thurs 29th -31st 86th SIGBI Conference at the ICC Belfast

**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - March 1st 2020**

## Statement from SI Harrogate

### Andrea Trimmer

"SI of Harrogate and District are both shocked and saddened by the death of Andrea Trimmer, an ex President of the Club and till recently Regional Development Officer. Andrea died suddenly on November 10th from a

pulmonary embolism.

Initially part of the Harrogate Sygnets she joined our Club in 2009 and quickly became the Events Coordinator.

She became President in 2014 and in her year of office raised over £3,000

for Young Carers.

As President she gave the opening address at the Harrogate SIGBI Conference in 2014.

In 2015 she became the Development Officer for at first the Club and then the Region and as such took the lead on the SIGBI Growth Plan

Andrea was a lively, vital person with a great commitment to Soroptimism.

We will miss her a great deal.

Sylvia Purser, Joint President SI Harrogate and District

A full obituary will follow in the next newsletter.



### 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: [ehayes1@sky.com](mailto:ehayes1@sky.com)