



Soroptimist International Yorkshire Region Newsletter



WINTER 2020

Officers 2020-21



Immediate Past President
Rita Leaman



President
Linda Davis



President Elect
Lindsay Green



Vice President
& Membership Officer
Jane Glendinning



Secretary
Judith Clark



Treasurer
Susan Mendoza



Development Officer
Sam Lawson



Minute Secretary
Sally Kendall



Communications Joint Officers
Sue Butler



Liz Lyle



Programme Action Joint Chairs
Lindsay Green



Susie Westwood



Benevolent Fund Rep
Hilary Putman



Federation Councillor
Angela Edwards

Who is She?

- Yorkshire members Elizabeth Hughes and Thelma de Leeuw were featured in November and October list of 100 notable Soroptimists.
- To find out more go to the SIGBI website, Sign in to members, Scroll down to Soroptimist Centenary 2021. then click on Who is She

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SI Sheffield Programme Action Project 2019-20

Mary Hillary Award Winning project

An Introduction

SI Sheffield emulated Richmond and Dales's idea of sharing the transferable skills used to run our club with young women. We approached a Sheffield Senior School, King Edward VII, and have since developed an amazing connection with Year 12 and 13 girls and staff there.

By passing on these workplace skills to girls, they gained a valuable addition to their CVs and UCAS applications forms whilst getting enjoyment out of their projects. The girls came along to meetings, participated in our projects and even led some themselves. They developed marketing knowledge, had opportunities to grow ideas for projects, gained confidence in running a group, and became more aware of the many problems facing women and girls in the world today and the work of the Soroptimists do to help solve these. In return we learned about Social Media, apps and video presentations.



Following a very successful year in 2018-19 when the girls organised and held an extremely vibrant Fashion Show with much media

coverage, raising over £1000 for ROTHACS (Rotherham Abuse Counselling Service) they went on to embrace SI Sheffield's main Programme Action project for 2019/20, namely to make Sheffield the first Toilet Twinned City in Yorkshire.

The project

Once the Club had agreed to make Toilet Twinning a focus of its Programme Action work we set up a steering group, got in touch with our local MP and raised awareness across the city through events and the media.



The girls did not only support our various publicity events, they also set out to make their own school the first Toilet Twinned School in Sheffield. They had stalls at Open Evenings, organised bake sales and other fundraising events, published articles in the school newsletter and delivered presentations in school assemblies. They even persuaded the Head and the Deputy to purchase a whole twinned school block.

Together, the girls and the Soroptimists got 42 toilets twinned in schools, youth

clubs, gyms, surgeries and clinics, sports clubs, cafes, bars and restaurants, local businesses, the Town Hall, The Children's Hospital and the City Hall. The toilets are twinned with ones in Malawi, Pakistan, Cote d'Ivoire, Uganda, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Nicaragua, Zambia and Congo.

The success

The result is that Sheffield is now a 'twinned city' (only the third one in UK), and we raised the sum of £2,600 to add to the total of £17,000 raised in Sheffield overall during the year we ran the project.



The girls had so much fun and learned lots. They now never take toilets for granted. They are delighted to have been educated, empowered and enabled along with helping girls around the world to do the same. SI Sheffield members are delighted to have won the prestigious Yorkshire Soroptimist Mary Hilary Award for 2020.

Daphne Cawthorne

Presidents Past & Present meet up

SIY President Linda

Incoming President Linda Davis was installed as part of the recent virtual SIGBI conference with everything at extreme social distancing.

Following the conference Linda was able to meet up with IPP Rita and present her with a gift and receive her chain of office.



President Kathleen & Yorkshire President Linda laid a wreath at Ings Grove Park, Mirfield, on behalf of members of SI Dewsbury & District. Members Maureen, Jackie, Helen and Pat also attended.



Harrogate and District Club remembered the fallen throughout the district. A sombre and quiet day as President Sandra laid a wreath of Poppies at Stonefall Commonwealth War Graves. So many young men, mostly from Canada, Australia and New Zealand who served in their Countries Royal Airforce. So far from home.
Lest We Forget.
President Sandra also laid a wreath at the Cenotaph in Harrogate. Club members also laid wreaths in Ripon, Knaresborough and Wetherby

Yorkshire Soroptimists Pay Tribute On Armistice Day

Members of SI Selby have in previous years attended the Remembrance Service in Selby Abbey and laid a wreath at the Memorial with other representatives from civic, military and voluntary organisations. This was not possible, because of the pandemic restrictions, this year.
Instead, a wreath was laid on behalf of SI Selby on Armistice Day, Wednesday 11 November, by Lindsay Green, President Elect of Soroptimist International of Yorkshire, and June Bryan, Treasurer of the club. June was also present at the service, held beside the Memorial and led by Canon John Weetman, followed by the Two Minutes Silence.



Notable Presentations

SI Beverley & District

Happy 90th Birthday

SI Beverley & District celebrated the 90th birthday of Honorary Member Barbara Newton. Barbara is a founder member and was the second club President in 1967. Barbara still takes a lively interest in club activities and attended outdoor events over the summer. The picture shows President Myra LeVine presenting her with a cake, card and flowers from the club, all socially distanced of course.



Toilet Twinning Certificate

Last year SI Beverley & District members saved a penny every time they used the loo, as a reminder of the problems faced by too many women and girls around the world who do not have access to sanitation. Soon they had the £60 needed to twin one of the ladies toilets at their meeting place, the Beverley & East Riding Golf club with a new latrine in Zambia.



After Christmas, followed by the first Covid lockdown the certificate was at last presented to the Lady Captain at the Golf Club by President Myra.

Planting, Plaques and P in a Pot

SI Dewsbury & District

In September members of SI Dewsbury and Wakefield planted 100 trees at Dewsbury Country Park, with a little help from Pete & Jill from Kirklees. Pictured below



They also planted 100 in October, pictured right.



Julie Thompson handed over a Toilet Twinning plaque to



Sarah and Andrew from the Refreshment Rooms at Dewsbury Railway Station. This is one of five the Club raised funds for through donations in 'loo' of Christmas cards last year.

Members are kept up to date with events (or non-events) by the weekly news sheet sent out by member and Yorkshire President Linda Davis. Local area groups of 6 have met in

gardens socially distanced, and also collected for local food banks and made Christmas shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse. Twiddle muffs have been presented to three local care homes, and bedding provided for the local refuge

A recent programme action project was 'P in the Pot' (Great minds think alike in this issue, Ed) with 155.00 raised for WaterAid.

Anna is the Best Girl Improver

SI Harrogate and District Club President Sandra Frier was delighted to present Anna Burgess with the Gill Smith Shield for Best Girl Improver at the Harrogate Spa Tennis Centre on 10th October. Anna started playing tennis when she was five years old and has always enjoyed playing.

Anna's mum Katie said, 'Anna was very happy and excited to receive the Soroptimist award. Our family are all keen tennis players, so we are proud to see Anna improve her game and receive this award'.

Matt McTurk, head coach at Tennis Harrogate said that, 'Anna was worthy of the award because of her hard work in tennis lessons. Her game has improved over the last year and she has a nice attitude on court'. Harrogate Spa Tennis Centre has six outdoor courts and a coaching programme provided by Tennis Harrogate for juniors and adults, A new 4 court indoor facility will start construction in Spring 2021.

The award is presented annually in memory of Club member Gill Smith. Gill loved tennis and was a former member of Harrogate Spa.

SI Harrogate & District



Meeting up to 'Orange the World'

A group from SI Ilkley was able to meet in approved social distancing fashion at a community centre in the town. When Sue Butler (top right) had finished helping to get 46 Yorkshire Soroptimists on to a WhatsApp list so they could share messages and comments there was still a 20 minute pause before the virtual Belfast conference went live. In this pause Sue and Margaret Cook (top left) began making decorations for a tree which Bradford council are allowing them to decorate in the town car park for November 25th. Young people from a local church will join up with SI Ilkley on this day to 'Orange the world' and push home the message about the terrible behaviour to which so many women are subjected.

Margaret Cook commented "Nine of us were at the Clarke Foley community centre. Both red



and white wine was consumed as we listened! It was great to be with Soroptimist sisters and share conversation and comments as we listened to an excellent conference. Zoom is great but--- - to be with Soroptimist sisters was a joy!"

SI Ilkley

Spectacular Projects

President Rita's third RCM collection was to have been spectacles. So members of S I Wakefield decided they would take part in the collection, even if they could not physically attend the scheduled RCM.



Over fifty spectacles were collected and these were intended for a project that sends glasses to Africa. Unfortunately due to COVID19 this project has been temporarily suspended, but as soon as it is reinstated the glasses will be delivered. Meanwhile they are being safely stored by IPP Judith Alce.

Toilet twinning 1p 2p

A few years ago S I Wakefield members took part in a toilet twinning project called 1p 2p. (1 penny to go to the toilet) However, due to inflation this Autumn's project is now 5p 2p!

Money is coming in and members are hoping that this time the club will be able to twin a toilet block, in a school or village. The photograph shows S I Wakefield member's toilets that will be twinned.



SI Wakefield

Soroptimist International Yorkshire Region

A Word from the Editor

An eventful time since the last newsletter with the virtual RCMs and Conference. Best wishes to incoming President Linda and congratulations on a very different year to IPP Rita.

Wishing all a Happy Christmas and
a safe and 'normal' New Year

Liz Hayes

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

Diary Dates - 2021

January

Saturday 9th Officers meeting

March

Saturday 13th RCM at The Bridge Inn

April

Saturday 24th Officers meeting

May

Saturday 22nd New Presidents Lunch

June

Saturday 19th RCM Askham Grange Prison (with President Johanna)

July

Wednesday 7th Officers meeting

August

Sunday 1st SI Yorkshire 85th Charter, a boat trip with tea in York

September

Saturday 18th RCM at Holiday Inn Barnsley

October

Saturday 2nd Officers meeting

28th - 30th SIGBI Conference

PLEASE CHECK ALL EVENT DETAILS DUE TO CURRENT RESTRICTIONS

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - February 28th 2021

Obituaries

Anne Stokes

LI Sheffield

Anne died very suddenly in September 2020, a great shock to everyone, as she has been a very active member of our club ever since joining over 30 years ago. She became Club President 1997 to 1998, and then went on to be club treasurer: latterly she coordinated the club supper meetings. She was also a very active member of "Friends of Prior Bank" a committee which supports a local care home and she has also been a Director of Sheffield Soroptimist Housing Company, when she served as treasurer.

Anne will always be remembered for her fundraising events for the Club with barbeques or coffee mornings always accompanied by a swim in the indoor pool at their house.

Anne will be sadly missed as a Soroptimist and a good friend.

Hilary Ibbotson

SI Richmond and Dales



Long serving (35 years) member Hilary Ibbotson died suddenly on October 16th. Hilary served as Secretary several times, Minute Secretary, Programme Action Convenor, member of the finance committee and Regional Council rep. She was Club President in 1993.

Hilary had a warm, cheerful, personality. Always optimistic which stood her in good stead during lock down. She was welcoming and encouraging to new members.

Hilary was a past Mayor of Richmond, serving on the Town Council for many years. She helped to set up the local talking newspaper and still read for them. Hilary was Secretary to Richmond School

Trust to date, she sang in a choir, enjoyed keep fit and went to the local church.

Hilary had worked in the Foreign Office, then, a woman in a man's world.

Hilary will be sadly missed by her many friends and her sons, to whom the club sends love and sympathy.

SI Richmond and Dales will remember her as a good and faithful member. May she rest in Peace.

Cath Turner

SI Leeds

We are very sad to report the death of Cath Turner, a member of SI Leeds since 1977. Cath held most of the offices in the club, including twice being our President - the first time round she got married, inviting many members to her wedding!

Cath was a key driver of many of our Programme Action initiatives, including:

Our healthy eating project, which we ran with one of the inner city primary schools; children prepared fresh fruit, sold it to their fellow pupils, and counted the money raised. This also became a school gardening project, in which Cath had particular expertise. She had taken up bee-keeping in her retirement, and brought a demonstration hive to show and teach the children, much to their delight.

At Cath's initiation, SI Leeds was involved in supporting the Arts Project for the new Bexley Wing, the Cancer Centre for the Leeds Hospitals.

Cath was a keen advocate for the establishment of the SI Leeds Literary Prize, which started in 2011, and now goes from strength to strength.

We will miss her very much for her enthusiasm, her wicked sense of humour, and her unfailing loyalty and support.