

**Soroptimist  
International  
Edinburgh  
news  
notes  
anecdotes**

Issue 144

March 2015

“When you invest in women and  
girls you invest in everyone”

Melinda Gates

### Volunteers required

Sight Village will be at the Hilton  
Hotel, Grosvenor Street, Edinburgh  
on 21 April and the Marriott Hotel,  
Glasgow on 22 April to mount an  
exhibition of technology, equipment  
and services for those with visual  
impairment. Guides are needed to  
assist visitors. Can you help?  
If so, please contact Christine Craig.  
Thank you.

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It is Spring –did you remember that your  
clocks should spring forwards?



Dr Margaret Langton  
died 14 February 2015

Margaret Langton joined SIE in 1963. She  
was club president in 1983/84 and was a  
regular and conscientious attendee at club  
meetings until just a few years ago. She  
was made an honorary member of SIE in  
2013.

Margaret was born in Mull and came to  
Edinburgh as a child when her family  
moved, but was always proud of her Mull  
heritage. She graduated in medicine and  
immediately went back to Mull to act as a  
locum in Tobermory. Later on she worked  
in the field of public health, finally acting  
as chairman of the South Lothian Hospital  
Trust. She was always immaculately  
turned out and obviously respected by the  
consultants.

Margaret was a member of the women's  
medical group. Having been one of the  
earlier female trainees, she worked hard to  
alter perceptions about women in the  
profession.

Margaret volunteered in various ways and  
was awarded the Order of St John. In fact,  
she was still volunteering at Cruse  
Bereavement Care in her 90s – answering  
the phones – but had been a counsellor for  
many years.

Margaret was a kind and generous person  
and had a good sense of humour. She will  
be very much missed.

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### SIGBI Conference 2015

Registration is now open for our annual  
conference. You can register online or, if  
you do not have this facility, ask a  
colleague for a paper copy and send  
your registration by “snail mail”. Early  
bird registration closes 30 June.

## Annual General Meeting 2015

The AGM will be on Wednesday 22 April at 7.30 pm.  
Have you considered how you can best serve the club?  
Perhaps you could arrange a fund raising event in collaboration with a friend.  
Do you have an idea for a speaker meeting?  
Better still are you willing to take office?  
Please don't rely on someone else to take the lead. Think about doing something on a job-share basis.  
If we all work together we can keep up the good work.  
At the AGM last year we discussed how best to spend the legacy from Betty Walls. There is still £1000 left which we should really put to good use. Any ideas?

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Being the wise women that you are you will already have written your will. However, have you made provision for your physical and financial welfare if you are no longer able to look after yourself?  
At the region meeting earlier this month we heard from the Office of the Public Guardian. (See the notes attached) Dorothy Reilly and Carolyn McVey have a handout which explains the difference between a Power of Attorney and Guardianship. It is prudent to have a power of attorney in place so that you do not put your nearest and dearest to more stress and expense than is necessary.

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Please note that Clephane Hume has moved. Her address is now No 26 with no other changes to report yet.

## Zataari Film

As part of the Betty Walls legacy we helped to fund this film. The film maker is willing to come and talk to us about it but at the moment is in Nepal! Meanwhile should you want to watch it the film is available on youtube at the link noted below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=71ZyUcZMN2I&feature=youtu.be>

## 3S Trust Fund Recipients

From time to time we receive updates from our applicants to the 3S Trust. They make excellent reading which tells us that our money is very welcome and well used. We recently received news from Micaela Church and we now can read her blog which is fascinating. Another link for you:

[michaelasjourneytonamibia.weebly.com](http://michaelasjourneytonamibia.weebly.com)

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### Dates for your diary

April 8	Club meeting
April 21	Sight Village
April 22	AGM
April 25	Scottish Conference Perth
May 13	Club meeting
May 27	Friendship Groups?
June 10	Club meeting
June 24	Summer Social

And finally – the BIG (and it is BIG) final total is (drum roll please)

**£161, 633.52**

## SIE Business Meeting held on 25 March 2015 at Edinburgh Central Youth Hostel

Present Pat Black (in Chair) plus 15 members.  
Apologies for absence were received from 6 members.

The Soroptimist vision and mission statement was read by Clephane Hume.

### News of members

Edith Elliot is now home from hospital.

Gari Donn is home but still having to be careful to avoid possible sources of infection.

Anne Bennett was back in hospital but is now home again.

Lesley Allan is heavily involved in caring for her mother and unable to commit to club membership at present.

Former member Anne Robertson (now with SI Crieff) sends best wishes.

### Spring fund-raiser

Thanks to Kathleen Hardie for organising the event and to the performers, who donated their time. A total of £488 was raised. Thanks to all who supported this event.

### BIG Dinner

Congratulations to Marjory Roy, who raised about £300 for 500miles charity. Thanks to all who gave support.

### SIGBI correspondence etc

Thanks to Ishbel MacNeil for circulating correspondence to members.

### Scotland South

Dorothy Reilly has details of:

SI Dunfermline's project in Uganda;

SI Paisley meeting on 23 April at which Olivia Giles is speaking; and

SIGBI Benevolent Fund.

The report on the joint SIGBI/Prison Reform Trust project on women in the criminal justice system is now available. Pat Black has a copy.

### Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

Pat Black indicated that some governments appear to have retreated on the question of human rights for women and girls since the last CSW. This made progress difficult. She noted that the UN Millennium Development Goals are due to be reviewed soon and there will have to be great care taken in their wording. UN Women have launched a campaign: "He for She" to encourage men who support gender equality to stand up and say so.

### Treasurer (Carolyn McVey)

Carolyn provided some calculations showing the breakdown of her subscription calculation, and indicating the effect of cutting the number of meetings. There is not much leeway and the venue cost is really the only part of the calculation which allows some flexibility. It was agreed that the current venue is ideal for our uses and that we will not find anything else as good at the same price. Accordingly, there was some discussion about reducing the number of speaker meetings and perhaps having some "activity evenings" to replace some of the cut meetings.

The arrangement which is to be put to members at the AGM is that we reduce to 14 meetings per annum at ECYH (1 in January, May, June and November and 2 each in February, March, April, September and October) , plus possibly 4 “activity evenings” (June and December socials plus an activity in May and shoebox-packing in November). It was also suggested that friendship groups should be encouraged to meet on any of the usual club evenings that we cut out in future.

If the above change is effected, the annual subscription could be set at £130 for 2015/16.

Carolyn reminded members that arrangements can be made to pay by instalments. Please speak to her for details.

### Membership

Pat Black noted that age is not an issue for membership. We welcome women of all ages, provided they support our objectives and are interested in being involved.

It was agreed that it would be good to get a group of younger women involved in our campaigns, eg 3S Trust beneficiaries, but it was felt that this may be difficult as they are mainly students and therefore somewhat transient.

Clephane Hume is to get in touch with a recent website contact.

Kathleen Hardie indicated that she had some friends who were interested in attending. Members were asked to be alert to potential members.

### Miscellaneous

A training session on completion of programme focus report forms (PFRs) is to be held by Scotland South on Saturday 18 April. Pat Black plans to attend.

There is to be a SIGBI Development Day in Nottingham in October. Morag Insley will represent SIE.

SI Falkirk are holding a dinner on Saturday 30 May and a trip to the Kelpies on Sunday 31 May.

Contact has been made by SI Madrid member, Claire Tedjini, who is to be in Edinburgh from 5/8 and 13/15 August. She is interested in meeting up with SIE members.

The Zaatari film is now viewable on Youtube. It is planned to show the film at a club meeting, once the film-maker is available to talk about it with us.

There is to be a play about FGM at the Traverse Theatre from 26-30 May.

There is to be a talk by Edinburgh Direct Aid about its recent aid visit to Syria, in the Quaker Meeting Hall, Victoria Terrace at 7:30pm on 30 March.

Isabel Smith has information about proposed accommodation for Syrian refugees in Edinburgh, and a request for members to write to their local councillors in support.

### Next meeting

The next club meeting will be held at Edinburgh Central Youth Hostel on Wednesday 8 April. There will be a presentation from a recently returned 3S Trust beneficiary.

Scotland South Meeting – Saturday 7 March at Greenpark Community Centre, Polmont

Members stood for a minute's silence in remembrance of Margaret Langton, SI Edinburgh. Total funds stand at £14,310.18, including 3S Trust Fund which is currently at £2,955.31. It was agreed that the Scotland South levy remain unchanged at £11 per head plus £3 UKPAC levy.

SI Scotland South and SI Glasgow City are planning a joint event in late August to celebrate Ann Garvie's term as SI President.

Scotland South agreed to support the application of Rita Beaumont (London Chilterns) as APD Food & Nutrition.

Scotland South agreed to support Scotland North's project submission – (Seema's Project, based in Bori, India) as the SIGBI Project 2016/19.

Scotland South may have a stall at Gardening Scotland exhibition at Ingliston in late May. Volunteers will be required. Details will be circulated once confirmed.

Federation Councillor (Eileen Hunter)

Registration fee for Glasgow 2015 will be the same as for Harrogate 2014. Online registration will be available within the next few weeks.

See February issue of the Soroptimist magazine for more information on the Club Growth Plan pilot.

The deadline for submission of projects for consideration as the SIGBI Project 2016/19 is 30 April.

There is now the facility to search for any SIGBI member on the membership database and then to make contact with that member via SIGBI. Further enhancements are to be added. SIGBI conferences: Malta (2016), Cardiff (2017) and Manchester (2018).

3S Trust Fund (Ruth Liggat)

£5,500 was paid out in the past year and the fund now stands at just under £3,000.

Unless the fund is built up, grants will have to be reduced or decisions deferred. Clubs are encouraged to support with donations.

Applications should be submitted electronically.

It was suggested that a display table be set up at the Glasgow Conference.

BIG Project (Brenda Kay)

The final total was £161,633.52! 21 out of 26 Regions and National Associations contributed and, of these, Scotland South came 5th in terms of its total contribution.

Club presentations

SI Falkirk and SI Dunfermline gave presentations on their projects in Arusha, Tanzania and Rwenzori, Uganda, respectively. Both were very impressive.

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Sandra McDonald – Office of the Public Guardian

This was a really interesting presentation on the differences between Power of Attorney and Guardianship and the role of the Public Guardian. Information is available for anyone interested, but the main message was that it was advisable to set up a Power of Attorney when still young and able – leave it too late and there is the potential for considerable difficulty and expense!

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Programme Action session

The UKPAC will focus on Trafficking, FGM and Prison Reform Trust projects..

Questions for members to put to their parliamentary candidates are being drawn up.

The bulk of the session took the form of a discussion of the wordings for the current Soroptimist Goals and Objectives.



