



**Soroptimist
International
Edinburgh
news
notes
anecdotes**

Issue 110

June 2011

From the President

This is just my second message, but the last one before the summer break. By the time you read this those of us who have been pulling out rosebay willow herb in Holyrood Park will have done our stint – unless the weather prevents us – and we shall be just about to have our Summer Social meal at Cafe Marlayne.

Although I hope everyone can then enjoy some time off from club duties, there will still be opportunities to further the work of the club. Why not think about:

- Laundering some clothes for Kids Love Clothes;
- Topping up your Smartie tubes for 3S Trust;
- Looking out for possible new members;
- Getting in touch with any members who have been unwell;
- Holding a Friendship group meeting.

I look forward to club activities recommencing in September but, meantime, have a good summer

President Dorothy

Arthur's Seat

It's that time of year again when the call goes out for any able-bodied Soroptimists in the club to go and pick Rosebay Willowherb from Holyrood Park. We are now in our third year of braving the hillside, the weather (remember the first year?) and the assorted thistles, nettles and brambles to remove as much of the plant before it comes into flower. And very pretty the flower is too!! But it does not belong in the Park, which is an important historical and geological site in Scotland. The idea is to remove as many of the plants as possible - brute strength and balance required - before it starts to flower and then seed itself all over the precious grasslands high up on the Craggs. Nine of us put in two hours of work leaving behind several large mounds of the plants which will decompose on the hillside.

The attached photo shows the members heading back down the hill!

Lindsey

Did you know? This week's weed is *Chamaenerion angustifolium* (Rose bay Willow Herb to you and me) See www.pitchcare.com



Soroptimist International of Edinburgh Business meeting held on 8 June 2011

President Dorothy welcomed members and two applicants for funding from the 3S Trust, Alex and Herbie both from Portobello High School. They were planning on going abroad later this summer on gap years with the Project Trust. Morag explained that their applications had already been submitted at the Region Meeting on 4th June 2011 in order to progress the applications speedily.

Myint Su read the Objects of Soroptimism and Anna lit the Candle of Friendship.

Alex then gave a short presentation of what he hopes to do next year. He was planning to go to La Pas, Bolivia to work on an Outreach Programme for street children, of whom there are 2,500 in La Pas alone. Herbie would be going out to the South West of Sri Lanka, to teach English and work on infant nutrition, since 60% of the children suffer from malnutrition. He reminded the Club that the area is still recovering from a long civil war and from the 2004 Tsunami. Later in the meeting members agreed that these two applicants should be supported.

APOLOGIES were received from four members

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 11TH MAY 2011

The Minutes of the Business Meeting of 11th May 2011, published in SIEnna, were accepted.

MATTERS ARISING

Pat asked for volunteers to man the SIGBI stand for the WAGGs Conference on 12th & 13th July 2011 at Heriot Watt University. She would find out whether volunteers would also be needed to set up the stand beforehand.

The President announced that the new Committee Lists for this year were in preparation and asked whether anyone still had to sign up.

She announced that new Friendship Group lists would be circulated and that the new members had each been allocated to a group.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lesley tabled the SIGBI Conference, Brighton October 2011 newsletter.

The European Institute for Gender Equality was seeking nominations from the Club for "Women Inspiring Europe." They had to be submitted by 10th June 2011.

There was a nomination for the Federation Consultative Councillor for Scotland South: Sue, Vice President of Scotland South, from SI Paisley. The Club agreed to support her.

There was a nomination for Assistant Programme Director for Education: Janet, SI Rugby, which the Club agreed to support.

There were 3 nominations for Secretary to the Diamond Education Grant (formerly Golden Jubilee Fund), Pam, Cherry and Anne. The Club agreed to support Pam.

SI Dunfermline invites the Club to afternoon tea at the Carnegie Conference Centre, Canmore Hotel at 2 pm on Saturday 18th June in aid of Mary's Meals. There would be a talk "Underwear through the Ages". Hats and gloves please! The tickets would cost £18.00.

MEMBERS' NEWS

It was reported that Winifred had broken her arm and could not drive. She would not be going to Kiev this year, as she had hoped.

PROGRAMME ACTION

Anna, Convener, circulated a board asking for volunteers to pull up rosebay willowherb on Arthur's Seat on Sunday 19th June. She had confirmation of this from the Rangers, who asked that everyone going wear strong shoes and a hat.

She reported that Brenda, SI Stirling, is planning a tea party at Airth Hotel on 18th March 2012, to host a presentation on 'Violence against Women'.

On International Women's Week-end March 2012, SI Glasgow City is going to organise a walk round the bridges over the River Clyde.

Pat reported that Karen had given her dozens of bags of old children's clothes, some of which were unsuitable for 'Kids Love Clothes'. Pat plans to have a general sorting out session at her house on Saturday 18th June during the morning. Volunteers from the Club would be most welcome.

MEMBERSHIP

There was nothing to report.

SOCIAL AND HOSPITALITY

The President reminded the Club that the Summer Social would be held at the Cafe Marlayne on 22nd June at 6.30pm. She then announced that she would be hosting a coffee morning at her own home on Saturday 8th October from 10.30am until 12.30pm, in aid of the Lamont Centre.

PROGRAMME

Christine, Convener, announced that she would hold a meeting of the Programme Committee immediately after the Business Meeting, to discuss the programme for the 6 speaker meetings next year. She wondered whether the Club might like to raise funds for local projects, such as rebuilding St Columba's Hospice or Street Work.

SCOTLAND SOUTH

Report from meeting held on 4th June. It was requested that donations to the 3S Trust be sent to the Treasurer as they were received. 8 Clubs had between them recruited 30 new members. The possibility of a new Club being formed at Kilmarnock was mentioned, especially as the Club at Ayr had recently closed. The Motion that Ann be proposed by Region as President Elect of SI was accepted unanimously. Nominations were still being sought for Vice President and Organisational Development Officer. Scotland South was going to spend £500 on development.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Morag reported that she had collected £80.00 in sponsorship for a member from NW England, who was walking the West Highland Way in aid of Project Sierra. The next Business meeting would be held on 14th September 2011.

SI Edinburgh and our Friendship Links around the World

SI Cockermouth and District - SIGBI

Cockermouth is in Cumbria in the North West of England. The club is one of 15 in the Northern Region. The link, originally with the Leith club, commenced around the 1980's when Edith was the President of SI Leith. The link was continued with the Edinburgh club when the Leith club was disbanded and members transferred to Edinburgh. There have been many meetings between members at club celebrations and at Federation Conferences or International Conventions.

The Cockermouth and District club was chartered in 1981 and has 29 members. Eight of these members have joined in the last two years. Members are extremely active at Club and Region level and also in the life of the town. They have regular articles in the local newspaper. Their website is www.cockermouthsroptimists.co.uk

The Calvert Trust delivers exciting, challenging and enjoyable outdoor activities for people of all ages and abilities. During the summer members of SI Cockermouth and District are active making beds for the participants when they are out on their activities.

When Cockermouth had severe floods in November 2009 SI Edinburgh, along with many clubs, sent money for emergency relief.

Wendy has been the main correspondent, until last year when she was Club President for the second time.

Anna

SI Kiev, Ukraine – SI Europe

Our friendship link with Kiev has been close over about 15 years – having started with SI Leith and continued when Leith members transferred to SI Edinburgh. I have managed to visit thereabout every other year but return visits are difficult because visas for entry into Britain are as scare as 'hens teeth.' The main focus of the Kiev Club is to help a school for blind and partially sighted children. Some of the club members are very poor themselves in spite of having 'good' jobs, so fund raising is not easy for them. They have to depend on their friendship links to help them. I have received some money from our club members which I will get out to them during the summer. It will be used, I expect, to buy equipment for the children to help their learning or physical development.

Kiev is a lovely city, Ukraine is a beautiful country and the Soroptimists there are very welcoming. Do think about a holiday there.

Winifred

SI Groveland, Groveland, CA - SI The Americas

I just took over this Friendship Link following the loss of one of our members so have not had the chance to develop a good correspondence with their members - but I do know exactly where they are having driven through that area in California some years ago. The town of Groveland is just 25 miles from the Yosemite National Park entrance and is a remnant (so the postcard tells me) of California's gold rush days. It appears to be a 'link' between the fertile valley farming and the high Sierra - Sierra Nevada Mountain range - so I would think quite snowy and cold winters but with a 'tourist foot-fall' in the summer.

SI Groveland is a young club having been chartered at the Millennium and celebrated their 10th birthday just last autumn. Like many American clubs they work hard at their service projects, but 'play' hard as well. A recent fund raiser and fun evening was a Chinese Auction and the 'Soroptimisters' helped out by exhibiting the prizes dressed in tuxedos!

They visit a retirement home at Christmas bringing small 'stockings' of gifts and say - through their excellent in-house magazine - that this might be the only Christmas a resident will get. Not too unlike our parcels for Cranston Street! Some of the members attended the biennial convention last July in San Francisco - similar, I think to our annual SIGBI conference - but the members were pleased to have it so close to their home town. Well, the US is a very big country and I guess if the Convention was held in the same State, that would rank as 'close'!!

Lindsey

Programme Action June 2011 (and a different take on the visit to Holyrood Park)

Thank you to all members and friends who took part in the work party to remove Rosebay Willow Herb from a patch in Holyrood Park. Thankfully the weather was kind to the nine of us who took part.

The Park was extremely busy that day with a charity run/walk taking place. There were also the usual recreational walkers both locals and visitors. In fact our group activity should have been cancelled. There had been an emergency involving a French visitor and all the rangers were dealing with the problem. As it turned out I had missed the message telling us that our event was cancelled so, having arrived, we were permitted to continue with the work party.

It was also quite a challenge to reach the Education Centre because parking was suspended in the Park which made a build up of cars outside, and buses were being diverted. So thank you to all who actually made it. Nicky was our ranger for the event. She led us safely to the area for our work party. In fact we managed to clear more of the plant than she expected!

A Huge thank you to all who collected, sorted, washed, mended, donated, delivered, sponsored, fundraised to all our projects both local, regional, and International. After the SI Convention in Montreal our focus will be on the leadership of women and girls.

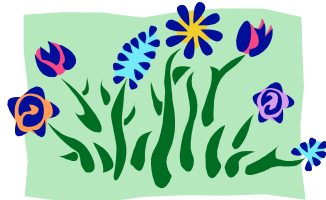
UK Programme Action Website www.soroptimist-ukpac.org

Anna

Bridgend Community Allotments

Information received recently is that NHS Lothian is no longer involved in the running of the Bridgend Community Allotments: it has now become an independent charity.

Alison



Enjoy Your Summer



and return refreshed in September

Dates for Your Diary

Sept	10	SISSR, Motherwell
	14	Business Meeting
	28	Speaker
Oct	12	Business Meeting, pre Conference
	26	Speaker
	27-29	SIGBI Conference, Brighton
Nov	9	Business Meeting
	23	Speaker
Dec	14	Social

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SI Edinburgh web address:

<http://soroptimist-gbi.org/edinburgh>