



**Soroptimist
International
Edinburgh
news
notes
anecdotes**

Issue 157

October 2016

SI Edinburgh – 90th

Following the last business meeting (12th Oct) a few more investigations have taken place.

We would like to thank members for their completed Questionnaires re SI Edinburgh's 90th Celebrations in December 2017. We value everyone's input and ideas for the celebration. We especially welcome members' offers of hospitality and funds towards the week-end. And we will be able to offer a varied programme as a result.

So the activities for the week-end could be different/varied to accommodate as many people as possible. Our formal celebration would be a lunch. The day before/after could be a visit to somewhere in Edinburgh OR home hospitality OR any combination. Some visitors may have their own plans, our club may entertain some in a variety of ways or we may have afternoon tea somewhere. Gari has offered to host us at Gladhouse after the lunch or at another time over the week-end.

Anna et al

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**SI Edinburgh Programme Action
16th October
Target Ovarian Cancer (TOC)**

Ishbel and I volunteered at the Education Centre in Holyrood Park for the fundraising walk/run for TOC on Sunday 16th October. We were given TOC T-shirts with Volunteer written on it.

Many people travelled up from the North of England for the event. The planned route had to be changed because of falling rocks in Holyrood Park. The park was busy as usual with a wedding party complete with Piper. The TOC staff up from London were very excited to hear the bagpipes being played.

Firstly we helped fill the goodie bags for the walkers/runners.

Then we looked after peoples bags while they were walking/running.

We prepared the medals ready for handing out.

Ishbel handed out the medals to the walkers/runners who completed 5 or 10 K while I continued to look after the bags.

There were 60 walkers/runners approx. They raised £7000 approx.

This will help more women to know the symptoms of Ovarian Cancer.

TOC can organise more 'getting together days' that help women and their families to get together and question the experts. It will help more GP's to be trained in diagnosing Ovarian Cancer.

It will help with more research into Ovarian Cancer.

Hopefully more women will know the symptoms of Ovarian Cancer, be diagnosed earlier, and will have better treatments and survive longer.

We volunteered for 4 hours.

A programme Focus report has been sent. It still has to be approved.

Anna

Women's Clubs in Edinburgh in the 1920s and 1930s

Anna was asked to find out about women's clubs in and around Charlotte Square, Edinburgh in the 1920s and 1930s.

Christine contacted her colleagues in the National Library of Scotland and below I report some of the findings. A tall order!

The **Ladies' Caledonian Club** seems to have been the nearest. There is much detail of interest in the NLS's reply. I have selected the involvement of Soroptimists, including Ethel de la Cour, our first President.

"Arrangements are being made for the removal of the Ladies' Caledonian Club (founded in 1908) from the present premises at 17 Charlotte Square to larger accommodation in the same vicinity. An option has been secured for the acquisition of the houses at 13 and 14 Charlotte Square." There follows much detail of the alterations required to the premises, including "The accommodation shown in the plans includes an entrance hall, dining rooms 15½ by 18½ feet, members' smokeroom, and other accommodation on the street floor. On the first floor is the drawing-room, with a large smokers' room, a silence room and other accommodation.

On the second floor are bedroom and the administrative office. Other accessory accommodation is provided on the attic floor, while kitchen and the servants' hall are on the basement floor. It is proposed to install central heating in all the public rooms, and also electric power, special gas supplies, a new hot water system, an electric passenger lift and service lift, and to carry through extensive redecoration. The financial arrangements include a provision for repayment of the debentures (which bear interest at 5 percent) subscribed by the members by way of an annual sinking fund."

Other details include:

Records of the **Post Office** directories.

"Page 14 of *The Scotsman* from 26th January 1939, entitled *Soroptimists' Regret*, gives an idea of events held by the Club at that time:

" Owing to an attack of influenza, the Lady Provost was unable to attend a reception held last night in her honour at the Ladies' Caledonian Club, 13 Charlotte Square, on her consenting to become an honorary member of the Soroptimist Club of Edinburgh.

Miss E. de la Cour, Miss Mary Tweedie, and Miss Alice Younger, honorary members of the Soroptimist Club, were the hostesses of the evening. The regret of the company at the Lady Provost's enforced absence was voiced by Miss de la Cour, the club's original President, who expressed the hope that the Lady Provost would soon be restored to health and be able to undertake her arduous duties of helping the Lord Provost.

Greetings from the Soroptimist Club at Copenhagen were conveyed by Miss de la Cour, who gave some account of a recent visit to Denmark, and of her meeting with the president of the Copenhagen Club, editor of the women's portion of the principal daily paper. The honorary president of the club, she said, was in an usual category, being the Secretary of the State lottery of Denmark.

Miss Mary Tweedie, in the course of an address on Burns, spoke of his universal appeal, and of how she had found a German child singing his songs in German firmly convinced that they were of German origin. She recommended the reading of the prose of Burns for insight into his gentleness of spirit, high ideals, and educated mind.

After a recitation by Miss Winstanley Brown, and a vote of thanks to the hostesses by Miss Macgillivray, president of the club, the proceedings closed with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne".

All links will be forwarded to you. Ed.

SIE Business Meeting held on 12 October 2016 at Edinburgh Central Youth Hostel

Present Winifred (in Chair) plus 14 members, guest (Nancy) and 3S Trust applicant (Tristan). Apologies for absence were received from 6 members.

Nancy (former member of SI Bloomington-Normal, Illinois USA)

After being welcomed to SI Edinburgh, Nancy told us about her former club – with which she is still involved from time to time – and about its projects and fund-raising activities. She donated two tops to SIE for possible raffle.

3S Trust

Ishbel introduced Tristan, a pupil at Beeslack Community High School, Penicuik, who will be spending a year in Thailand from September 2017. He is working with Project Trust and will be teaching English. It was agreed that SIE would support Tristan's application to 3S Trust.

News of members

Mary has provided Pat Black with some information relating to refugees from South Sudan.

Matters arising from minutes of meeting held on 14 September 2016

The minutes were agreed. There were no matters arising.

Programme Action

- Alison suggested that, following on from the topic covered at the last meeting, we might consider being involved in a beach clean next year. It was agreed that she should make enquiries.
- Anna and Ishbel are volunteering for the support team at the Target Ovarian Cancer event in Holyrood Park on 16th October.

SIGBI Conference Resolutions

The four resolutions were discussed and a vote taken on each. The decisions reached as to how Edith, who will be SIE's voting delegate, should vote are:

1. Re charitable status for SIGBI – vote for
2. Re moving charitable assets (technical resolution following on from 1) – vote for
3. Re removal of IPP from FMB – Edith to decide after hearing the arguments at conference.
4. Re introduction of reduced SIGBI fees for 16-25 year olds – vote for.

SIE 90th anniversary

Anna reported that a lunch appeared to be the favoured option. Various possible venues have been investigated. It was agreed to book Pollock Halls for lunch on Saturday 9 December 2017. The cost per head is unlikely to be under £40. There will be about 6 official guests. Irene kindly offered to donate what she would receive for rental of her timeshare property towards the guests' costs.

Anna has not yet had a reply from the Lord Provost's office re a civic reception.

Members will be asked to offer home hospitality to visiting Soroptimists.

It is hoped to offer other optional activities, eg Gari has suggested a visit to Gladhouse.

It was agreed that it would be good to find a project to go along with the celebrations. Isabel will contact the Guides re a possible link.

It is hoped also to update the club history – a volunteer to cover the 10 years since it was last updated is requested.

SI Munchen-Schwabing

Contact has been made by a member of the above club, offering to be the correspondent with SIE. Myint Su has volunteered to be the SIE correspondent. Accordingly, Irene will contact the SIGBI Friendship Link Co-ordinator to advise that we do not, after all, wish to terminate this link. Irene indicated that she had not had a response re her request to cancel several other links.

Christmas social (Wednesday 14 December)

Irene reported that she had made enquiries at Cafe Marleyne (cost approx £25 + drinks) and Royal Overseas Club (cost approx £23 + drinks). Six of those members present indicated their interest. Irene will contact those absent from the meeting and will make a booking at Cafe Marleyne as required.

Miscellaneous

- Gifts from SI Grenoble were included in the raffle.
- Thanks to Winifred for chocolates from SI Dniepropetrovsk.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be on 26 October at Edinburgh Central Youth Hostel when there will be a speaker from Project Trust.

Please note that the meeting on 9 November will take the form of shoebox-checking (for Blythwood Trust) at Craigmillar Park Church, starting at 6:30pm.

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SI Riverside Friendship Link

I was contacted recently by one of the members, Vickie Wheeler, who was staying in Edinburgh for two nights (3rd & 4th October) as part of a coach tour of the UK. As there was very little time in which to meet and I was unsure as to exactly when, there was no opportunity to contact many members.

However, I did manage to meet Vickie and her sister at the hotel for a short time before they left Edinburgh for the next part of their journey. We did manage to exchange notes on our respective clubs. It was most enjoyable but we agreed that we would have liked to have had more time together.

I am sure that this will have made our friendship link even stronger.

Trish

Cranston Street

At Alison's request, Rose Turnbull of Cranston Street Hostel has said that umbrellas would be most acceptable as presents for the women in the shelter. I shall collect any you may wish to give (nicely wrapped), on 23rd Nov. If you are unable to attend on 23rd, would you be able to give your gift to someone who is? Or could you give it to someone who will be packing shoeboxes? Or find me.

Ed.

Packing/Checking Shoe Boxes

As one of our volunteering activities we shall be at Craigmillar Park Church on Wednesday 9th November at **6.30 pm by special arrangement.**

Raffle prize will be donated by Pat Black in November.

Dates for Your Diary

Nov 9: Packing Shoeboxes at 6.30 pm
- see page 4

10-12 SIGBI Conference, Malta

19: SISR, Hillhead Community Centre, Kirkintilloch

23: Business Meeting + report from SIGBI Conference

Dec 14: Christmas Social

Jan 11: Business Meeting



SI Edinburgh web address:

www.sigbi.org/edinburgh